

Gc
976.402
B75p
1928759

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02290 5720



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

THE HISTORY OF BRENHAM ψ AND WASHINGTON COUNTY Tex.

BY MRS. R. E. PENNINGTON
BRENHAM, TEXAS

May Amanda (Williams) Pennington

STANDARD PRINTING & LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY
HOUSTON, TEXAS
1915

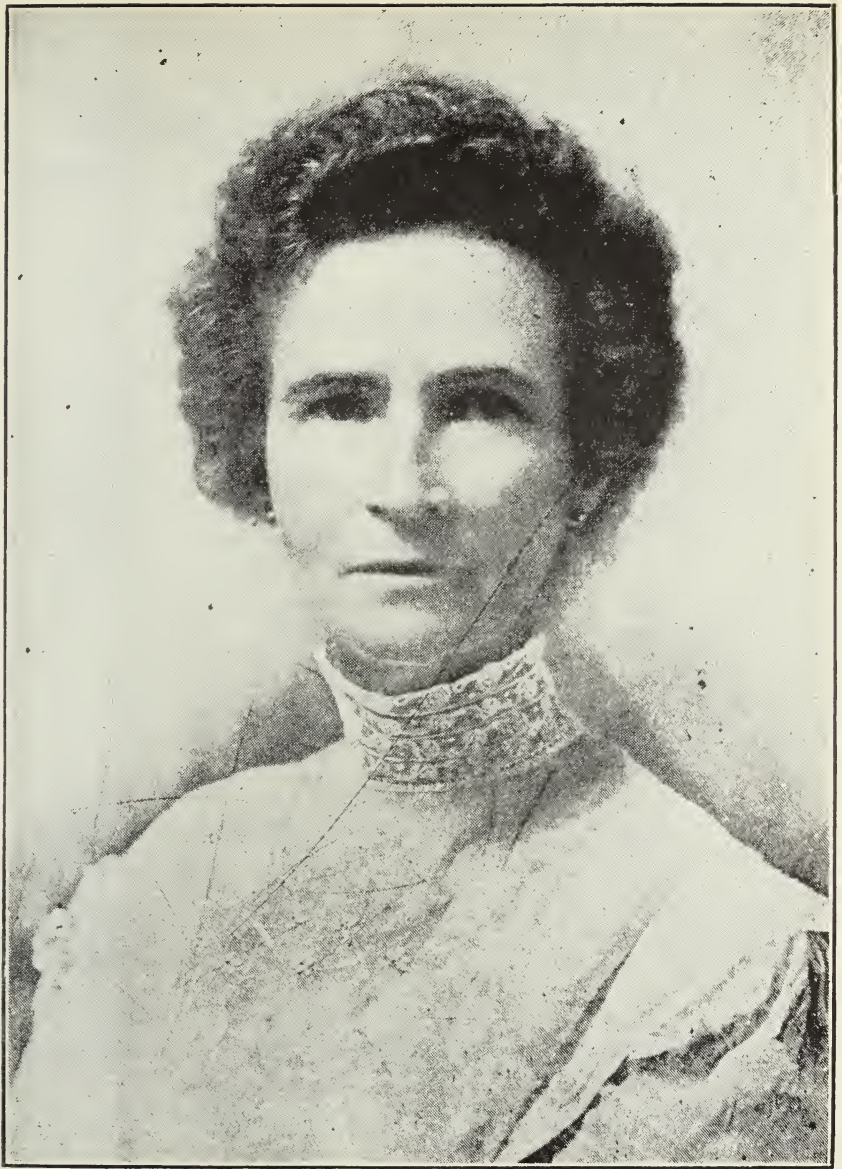
COPYRIGHTED 1915
BY MRS. R. E. PENNINGTON

1928759

DEDICATED TO MY HUSBAND

R. C. Pennington

*I wish to thank E. W. Winkler of Austin,
and W. D. Notley of Brenham for the
valuable assistance given me in the
preparation of this book*



MRS. R. E. PENNINGTON

CONTENTS

Short History of Texas.

Some Historical Facts About Washington County.

Life of Dr. Richard Fox Brenham.

Brenham,—

County Seat.

Town Commissioners and Original Site.

First Settlers.

First Census.

Railroads.

Confederate Soldiers.

Reconstruction Days.

Yellow Fever Epidemic.

Germania Verein.

Banks.

Some Pioneer Merchants.

Newspapers.

Public Library.

City Administration.

Fire Department.

Education—W. D. Notley, J. L. Neu.

Religion.

The Giddings'.

Sketches of James E., Chauncy B. and Seth Shepard.

W. W. Searcy.

T. A. Low.

S. D. W. Low.

Washington on the Brazos.

Some Early German Settlers and Their Descendants.

The Schuerenbergs'.

C. Klaerner.

H. F. Hohlt.

Sketch of Hugh Kerr.

Poems.

THE HISTORY OF BRENHAM AND WASHINGTON COUNTY

SHORT HISTORY OF TEXAS.

Vivid in coloring and wonderful in action are the moving pictures which History throws upon the screen of Time. The first films in the long reel unroll with creation's dawn. The soft pastel shades appearing after "the Spirit moved upon the waters and said, Let there be light." These are followed by films depicting the lovely rose pinks and delicate blues of the golden sky that arched the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve wandered in perfect peace and happiness in the beautiful green valley through which flowed the sparkling waters of the Euphrates. And then comes war,—grim visaged war, with its crimson carnage, and dull blues and browns of sorrow. Beginning with the killing of Abel by Cain, and ending with the present European struggle for supremacy, the dramatic action is based upon war. All through the fascinating reel some nation is warring with some other nation, for the purpose of changing conditions for the betterment and advancement of mankind. In the filmed pictures, since Adam and Eve were driven from Eden, there is no record of universal peace. But ever through History's scenario shines the Master's holy white light, leading each human being to "the peace which passeth all understanding."

Time's motion pictures of Texas, Washington County, and Brenham, are very likely, of greater interest to Brenhamites than any other historical photo-play in the world. The long reel opens with

TEXAS.

Texas dates its individual history with the signing of the Declaration of Independence at old Washington on the Brazos, March 2, 1836. Prior to that period the changes through which it passed were marvelous. Indians, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Mexicans, Texans, Americans, Confederates and Americans, each in turn have controlled for a time its destinies.

Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, conducted the first Europeans to Texas. He commanded the squadron of four

vessels and 300 men who landed near the entrance to Matagorda Bay February 18, 1685. Later the colonists built on the Lavaca River a fort which they called Saint Louis. La Salle went to search for the Mississippi River, and was killed in 1687 by his own men. The Indians attacked Fort Saint Louis and killed and scattered the colonists, thus ending French rule in Texas.

Little was done after this to settle Texas until 1715. Permanent occupation by Spain may date from this year. La Bahia was settled in 1716, Nacogdoches in 1732, and Victoria soon after. Missions were built; and each mission had a presidio, for church and fortress, cowl and carbine were ever together for mutual protection. Spain held Texas for upwards of 150 years.

Following the revolt of Mexico from the rule of Spain, the first grant from the Mexican government to found an American colony in Texas was dated January 17, 1821. It was given to Moses Austin, a native of Connecticut, and father of Stephen F. Austin. The father, Moses Austin, dying suddenly, the son undertook the work of carrying out his father's plans. Austin's first colonists arrived on the Brazos River late in December, 1821. On the first of January, 1822, Austin named the creek upon which he and his party had camped New Year's Creek. The country watered by the Guadalupe, Colorado and Brazos rivers was explored, and the town of San Felipe de Austin was laid out on the Brazos in 1823. In the spring the emigrants realized that they had found a most beautiful country. There was plenty of fish and game, and great herds of deer and buffalo grazed peacefully upon the prairies. The thickly wooded forests, where wild birds warbled, were equally divided with the boundless prairies where innumerable wild flowers bloomed in profusion. Even at this early period the myriads of blue bonnets that carpeted the broad prairies and faded into the cerulean distance, excited wonder and admiration; and they were known as the colonists' loveliest flowers.

The first settlements were made over an area of ground from the Lavaca River to the San Jacinto River, and extending from the old San Antonio road to the Gulf of Mexico. This scope of country embraced what is now known as Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Waller, Washington, and Wharton counties. The first Mexican civil government was organized by Don Juan Antonio Sancedo, Political Chief of the Province of Texas. He assumed command of the colony, May 20, 1824, and his proclamation is brief and sensible. Sancedo appointed Stephen F. Austin Political Chief and Judge, until the Ayuntamiento should be

organized. Baron de Bastrop was the first surveyor, and Horatio Chriesman was employed and made most of the original surveys in Washington County. The first settlers in this section did not establish a town, but opened up farms. Judge John P. Coles, Col. Jared E. Groce, Dr. Colbert Baker and Andrew Robinson came to the west side of the Brazos in the winter of 1821-1822. Sam, William and Amos Gates, James Whitesides, M. Bird, James Lynch, Abner Kuykendall and Josiah H. Bell arrived in 1822-1823. The first child born in this settlement was Mariah Coles, the daughter of Judge and Mrs. John P. Coles, born in the winter of 1822.

The Mexican government passed colonization laws and held out inducements to the citizens of the United States. Immigration began to flow in and spread itself over the provinces of Texas and Coahuila, as by decree May 7, 1824, they had been provisionally united to form one of the constituent and sovereign states of the Mexican Confederacy. Forests were felled, wild prairies were broken, and farms established. In nine years the Americans had explored the whole southern portion of the provinces and redeemed it from wild beasts and Indians. Colonists came faster than provision could be made for their support; and the first settlers were often reduced to the necessity of subsisting entirely on wild game, and clothing themselves with skins. Buckskin was the common dress. Blessed indeed was the woman who had brought a supply of wearing apparel from the States, for even calico was hard to obtain and found a ready sale at seventy-five cents per yard. These pioneers suffered greatly from Indian depredations.

On April 6, 1836, an arbitrary law was passed prohibiting further immigration of American settlers into Coahuila and Texas. Military posts were established and the civil authorities were trampled under foot. The Texans held a general consultation in 1835 at San Felipe de Austin. Harry Smith was elected governor, and James W. Robinson lieutenant-governor of the provisional government. Sam Houston was made commander in chief of the Texas army. Branch T. Archer, William A. Wharton and Stephen F. Austin were appointed to seek aid from the United States. The appeal to arms in behalf of the constitution of 1824 rallied the whole people of Texas like one man, to the protection of their rights and liberties.

At Washington on the Brazos, March 2, 1836, the famous Declaration of Texas Independence was signed by the fifty-eight delegates.

Santa Anna, President of Mexico, and the self-styled "Napoleon of the West," resolved on driving out the Ameri-

cans in Texas, or crushing their spirit of independence, at the head of 8000 men, marched into the city of San Antonio. The Texans, passing the San Antonio river, took refuge in the Alamo. Here Travis, aided by Bowie, Bonham and Crockett, and a handful of men, made that memorable stand whose watchword was "Victory or Death." History's pages perpetuate the record of many an heroic achievement upon the field of battle; and there have been displays of exceptional and pre-eminent courage which stand out conspicuous in the annals of valorous deeds. In the pass of Thermopylae, Leonidas and his brave Spartans set the standard of valor for many centuries; at Wagram, McDonald's legions made a wonderful charge that thrills the heart like a bugle call to arms; "into the jaws of death" at Balaklava rode the six hundred,—the flower of England's chivalry, and ever since their sublime courage has inspired the pen of historians and poets; Pickett and his devoted followers at Gettysburg mocked at danger and death, and on that fateful field won the laurels of a fadeless fame. The leader and men alike who came alive from that carnival of death carried passports to immortality. History will not willingly let these illustrious names die, but though glorious were their deeds, the grandest example of unselfish heroism and fidelity to duty even unto death, was when, within the consecrated walls of the Alamo, on Sunday, March 6, 1836, a little band of Texans taught mankind the lesson of earth's loftiest martyrdom.

Then came the massacre of Fannin and his men on their retreat from Goliad on Palm Sunday; at the sunrise hour these brave patriots, with few exceptions, who had surrendered with honorable terms, with stipulations written in the English and Spanish languages, were shot in cold blood by order of the usurper. "Remember the Alamo, Remember Goliad," the cry for just vengeance went up to Heaven. It was avenged at San Jacinto. Houston and his gallant army of about 783 men defeated Santa Anna and his legions numbering about 1500 veteran soldiers on April 21, 1836. The battle began at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and most authorities agree that it lasted about fifteen or twenty minutes. Sidney Sherman commanded the extreme left; Edward Burleson the center; on the right was placed the artillery under George Hockley; four companies of infantry were commanded by Millard, and the sixty-one cavalymen were under Mirabeau B. Lamar. In the history of Texas two dates, March 2d and April 21st, 1836, will stand forever like imperishable marble monuments to the giant intellects of the Americans; at Washington in convention assembled they announced with their pens that they were free, sov-

ereign and independent, and by force of arms on San Jacinto's glorious battlefield they ratified this declaration of Texas Independence. Never since the morning stars sang together has such a magnificent country been given to crown the efforts of men.

The presidents of the Republic of Texas were David G. Burnet, president ad interim, March 16 or 17, 1836, to October 22, 1836; Sam Houston, October 22, 1836, to December 10, 1838; Mirabeau B. Lamar, December 10, 1838, to December 13, 1841; Sam Houston, December 13, 1841, to December 9, 1844; Anson Jones, December 9, 1844, to February 16, 1846. The first and last presidents were both inaugurated at old Washington on the Brazos. In the spring of 1845 the United States Congress passed resolutions admitting Texas into the Union; and while President Jones surrendered his authority to J. Pinckney Henderson, who had been elected governor, and announced at Austin that "the first act in the great drama is performed. The Republic of Texas is no more," the Republic really died at Washington when the last Congress passed the resolutions of annexation.

The story of Texas under the long line of governors who succeeded Henderson is of prosperity and happiness, and is quite familiar to every one.

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNTY

The municipality of Washington embraced a large territory. The county of Washington, one of the oldest and most historic in the State, was created March 17, 1836, and organized December 14, 1837. It has been occupied for nearly ninety-four years, the first settlers being Austin's colonists, who arrived in 1821-22. The average body of land on its whole surface is, very likely, better than any other county in the State. The men who owned its soil originally were among the first Texans to do valiant work for the cause of civilization.

In the early history of Texas, the town of Washington "stood as one of the leading centers of business, politics, education and social culture." Today this ancient place is deserted and well nigh forgotten. Changed conditions have caused the decay and death of a number of other Washington County towns and settlements, once inhabited by people who were prosperous and happy. Some of these places have disappeared completely from the face of the earth, and so long have they been numbered with the things that were, that it is difficult to locate them and determine when and where they existed. This list will probably be of interest:

JACKSONVILLE.

Jacksonville, which took its name from Terrell Jackson, a wealthy planter of that settlement, was one of the oldest towns in Washington County, and was situated about three or four miles north of Chappell Hill. It is said that well educated and good people lived there, and that there were prosperous merchants whose business houses were well built. Most of the commerce was carried on by steamboats, which plied up and down the Brazos River. Quite a broad and straight street was laid out through the main part of the town and this was called the avenue. Only the very oldest inhabitants are able to recall the days of Jacksonville's departed glory—for there is not a vestige of the old town left.

TURKEY CREEK.

Turkey Creek was so named by a family of Guytons 'way back in the '40s, and was one of the four candidates for

the county seat of Washington County in 1844. Every year somebody plows over the place where this town was, six miles east of Brenham—and every year somebody gathers cotton and corn where it once flourished, and nobody remembers much about Turkey Creek.

ROCK ISLAND.

At Rock Island, once a promising village, just a few miles south of Graball, was a fine educational institution, known as the Rock Island Academy, and the youth for many miles around went there to have their minds trained. In 1837, legislation having been had providing for the selection of county seats by the vote of the people, Chief Justice John P. Coles ordered an election to be held to locate the county seat of Washington. Rock Island was a candidate against Washington for the honor. At Pecan Grove, the polling place half way between the rival towns, Washington was chosen. When the Houston & Texas Central Railroad wanted to cross the Brazos River at Rock Island and build into Washington for a bonus of \$11,000.00, Washington refused, and this was the death of Rock Island, and the death of Washington also. Rock Island was given its name by Amos Gates.

MUSTANG.

Seventy-eight years ago Mustang was a trading point three miles east of Brenham. Mustang Gray, the celebrated Texas ranger, lived here and clerked in a store, and the place was named for him. W. B. Travis, the hero of the Alamo, lived in Mustang and practiced law in the alcalde's court in the early '30s. Its end is shrouded in obscurity.

MOUNT VERNON.

Mount Vernon, the second county seat of Washington County, was named by Judge John Stamps in honor of George Washington's home—which is so beautifully situated on the classic Potomac River—when he laid out the town in 1841. A log courthouse was built, and at the suggestion of Judge R. E. B. Baylor, was dedicated to justice. Under a spreading live oak tree about one hundred yards from the courthouse the learned judges often retired to deliberate over their verdicts. In 1844, in an election for the county seat between Turkey Creek, Independence, Mount Vernon and Brenham, Mount Vernon dropped out of the contest. After the removal of the county seat to Brenham the town went rapidly to decay, and its beautiful site, upon a high knoll, about six miles west of Brenham, is likely unknown to the folks who cultivate the land above its grave.

TIGER POINT.

Tiger Point received its cognomen from Phil Coe in the '30s, because he said it was full of men who led fast and furious lives. It was a town of some importance. But it went down before the pitiless decree of fate, and the site, six miles south of Brenham, is just an ordinary Washington County farm.

OLD GAY HILL AND OTHER TOWNS.

Old Gay Hill was once a place of note, Rev. James Weston Miller established, in 1850, there an excellent school for girls, entitled the Live Oak Female Seminary. For many years it was an important seat of learning. Old Gay Hill boasted of fine Baptist, Cumberland and Old School Presbyterian churches, and Rev. Miller was pastor of the latter. It was a place of matchless natural beauty, situated upon an eminence dotted with live oak trees; its people were elegant, refined and humane as any who ever lived. All that is left is the old colonial home of Dr. Miller and a recently erected Presbyterian church.

Evergreen, or Waco Spring, was noted chiefly as the place where the Tonkaway and Waco Indians had a battle in 1837. It was a small settlement.

The old town of Union Hill, three miles north of Burton, had its site selected by a local physician, Dr. Gant, who also supplied its name. Near this place the Gocher family was massacred by the Indians in 1838.

Lots were laid off for a town in a settlement known as Warren, at the mouth of New Year's Creek; but as there were few buyers, the plan of making a city was soon abandoned, and the land reverted to the original owner, who was named Warren.

R. E. B. Baylor and Rufus C. Burleson used to preach occasionally at Mount Gilead, where there were a few Baptists. The town of Ayers was named for David Ayers. Little is known of these two places, save that they once existed.

CITIES AND TOWNS OF TODAY.

Besides Brenham, the prominent towns of Washington County at the present time are Chappell Hill, Independence, Burton, Gay Hill, Greenvine, William Penn, and a number of lesser importance.

Independence was first known as Coles Settlement, honoring John P. Coles, who first settled there in 1824. It was given its present name by Dr. Asa Hoxie, to commemorate the Texas Declaration of Independence. It has been

memorable for the number of distinguished people that have lived within its precincts, and for the great educational zeal of its pioneer citizens. The first school was taught in 1838 by J. D. Giddings. On February 1, 1845, the charter for Baylor University, named for R. E. B. Baylor, was granted by the Congress of the Republic of Texas, and this famous educational institution was located at Independence. Among the first presidents were Henry L. Graves, Rufus C. Burleson, George W. Barnes, and William Carey Crane. Baylor Female College was founded in 1866. These two schools became very famous; and it was a sad day, in 1886, for Washington County, when lack of railroad facilities caused their removal to Waco and Belton. Independence was incorporated August 1, 1859, and T. T. Clay was elected mayor. The city government was of short duration.

CHAPPELL HILL.

Chappell Hill, named for Robert Chappell, a pioneer, was known as early as 1849 as a trading point. Among the first people were Robert Alexander, one of the founders of the Methodist Episcopal church in Texas; H. S. Thrall, who wrote a history of Texas; O. Fisher, B. T. Kavanaugh, F. C. Wilkes, George W. Carter, William Halsey, C. C. Gillespie, J. E. Carnes, F. A. Mood, W. G. Conner, John C. Moore, C. G. Forshey, Pinckney Hill, Williamson S. Oldham, Gabriel Felder, W. W. Browning, R. T. Swearingen and Terrell Jackson. It came into prominence with the establishment of Soule University, which was chartered in 1856, and the founding of Chappell Female College a few years later. This University was consolidated with the Southwestern University at Georgetown in 1875; and the Female College was discontinued a few years ago. Chappell Hill was incorporated April 7, 1856, and John D. Wallis was elected mayor. This form of government, however, was abandoned within a few years.

BURTON.

When the Houston & Texas Central Railroad was extended in 1871 to Austin, the settlement in the Burton neighborhood assumed commercial importance, and was named for John M. Burton.

Washington County has been the home of a greater number of men of distinction than any other county in Texas. This incomplete list of their names, without their biographies, will prove this statement: Sam Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar, Anson Jones, Martin Ruter, W. M. Tryon, R. E. B. Baylor, Robert Alexander, W. Y. Allen, John Hemphill,

A. S. Lipscomb, R. M. Williamson, Jack Hall, Barry Gillespie, James H. Willie, W. P. Rogers, B. E. Tarver, W. Y. McFarland, William Pinckney Hill, A. M. Lewis, G. W. Horton Anthony Butler, John T. Mills, Richardson Scurry, F. W. Adams, Joe Crosby, James Weston Miller, W. H. Ewing, J. D. and D. C. Giddings, J. E. and C. B. Shepard, John Sayles, B. H. Bassett, T. W. Morriss and Seth Shepard. Dr. Gideon Lincecum, one of the State's first naturalists, lived at Long Point, where the most of his investigations were made.

Washington County has had only two Congressmen, Col. D. C. Giddings; and the present Congressman, Hon. J. P. Buchanan, who was elected to fill the unexpired term of Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson, and is now serving his first regular term.

THE LIFE OF RICHARD FOX BRENHAM

THE MIER MARTYR, FOR WHOM THE CITY OF BRENHAM,
WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS, IS NAMED.

Among the most interesting characters in the early history of Texas is that of Richard Fox Brenham, the Mier martyr, and brilliant Kentuckian for whom the county seat of Washington County is named. He arrived at Washington on the Brazos in the spring of 1836, and for seven years served the Lone Star Republic as physician, soldier and surgeon. This pioneer soul, while blazing his pathway through the wilderness where highways never run, was a living exponent of high ideals. With great medical skill he ministered to the sick settlers of Washington County; with tender hands he cared for the dying travelers across the great southwestern prairies; and in mercy he alleviated the pains of the suffering and wounded soldiers who went with the ill-fated Mier expedition. Imprisoned in Mexico's darkest dungeon, the lofty spirit of the gallant soldier-surgeon pressed on with the ardor of hope; and he made brave speeches to his comrades prophetic of freedom. The crowning act of Dr. Brenham's useful life was at the hacienda de Salado, when he courted death unselfishly, and carried his cross to his Calvary and gave his life for his fellow men.

Richard Fox Brenham was a native of Kentucky, and was born in 1810, in Woodford County, near Frankfort. His mother was Mary M. Fox, and his father was Robert Brenham. Their ancestry has been traced in unbroken lines to Governor John West of Virginia, brother of Lord De La Ware, and to the oldest and best English landed gentry dating back to the time of William the Conqueror. Richard received his education at Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky, and was graduated with high honors.

During the '30s many Kentuckians, having heard of the natural advantages and wonderful resources of the new Republic, came to Texas seeking homes, fortunes, and adventures. Dr. Brenham arrived at Washington on the Brazos just after the battle of San Jacinto. He was a brave and fearless man; and, if he had been in Texas on April 21,

1836, his name undoubtedly would be enrolled among the immortals who participated in that memorable conflict. The records in the General Land Office at Austin show that a bounty warrant was issued Richard Fox Brenham for 320 acres of land, by the Secretary of War for services in the army of Texas from June 15 to September 15, 1836, said land being located in Cooke County. His first place of residence in Washington County was with Sanford Woodward, on Woodward's Creek, about three miles east of the City of Brenham. This was his home up to 1839, when he went to Austin. He never lived in what is called Brenham, for the place was not named for him until 1844, about one year after his death.

All nature combined to make Dr. Brenham a model man; and physically, intellectually, and morally his life is worthy of emulation by the youth of Brenham. He was a strikingly handsome man, of tall and commanding physique; around his broad forehead were masses of light brown hair; and his classical features were lighted by dark brown eyes in which gleamed the fires of intelligence. He possessed superior education, magnetic personality, a cheerful disposition, a rare gift of oratory, and being naturally witty always pleased a crowd. Many incidents illustrating the sterling character of Dr. Brenham were told by the early settlers. When he lived in Washington County he had many friends among the men, women, and little children; and they so loved this bright and skillful physician, that when the time came to name the town of Brenham the brave and good man and his services were not forgotten; for with one accord the patriotic women of the settlement paid tribute to the dead soldier-surgeon, and christened the little place, Brenham, in his honor.

An authentic account of this talented physician is obtained from the Austin City Gazette of October 17, 1839. He was vice president of the dinner given President Mirabeau B. Lamar in honor of his arrival at the new seat of government in Austin. Dr. Brenham responded to the toast: "The government of Texas; may it always be administered by honest and capable men for the interest of the whole people, and never be used as an instrument in the hands of unprincipled and designing politicians for personal aggrandizements and the advancement of party purposes."

Dr. Brenham practiced medicine in Austin about two years, and served in his professional capacity some of the most prominent men and women, among the number being President Lamar. In 1841 he treated, for a badly shattered ankle, and injuries to his back, George W. Kendall, who wrote "The Narrative of an Expedition Across the Great

Southwestern Prairies from Texas to Santa Fe"; and he and Mr. Kendall became fast friends, and were comrades in the Santa Fe Expedition.

Politics interested Dr. Brenham; and he was a candidate for member of the House of Representatives for Travis County in 1840, but was defeated by Dr. G. S. Haynie. An index to the mental caliber of this pioneer is furnished by a San Jacinto address which he delivered in Austin, April 21, 1840, and which was printed in the Austin City Gazette May 13th, of that year. (A copy of this speech is appended.) This speech is one of the most brilliant orations ever delivered upon an occasion of this kind, and proves the great literary ability of the bright and brainy Dr. Brenham.

President Lamar found a kindred spirit in the peculiarly winning manners, courtly carriage, and remarkably fine literary taste of Dr. Brenham; and, he delighted to honor his friend with appointments on important committees. Lamar sent him as one of the three commissioners of the Santa Fe Expedition to open commercial intercourse with Santa Fe; the other commissioners being William G. Cooke and Jose Antonio Navarro. The expedition started from Brushy Creek near Austin, June 20, 1841; and there were 270 soldiers under General Hugh McLeod. Many merchants and pleasure seekers also went along. Miss Cazneau of Austin gave the expedition a beautiful flag, and, at the presentation ceremonies, Dr. Brenham made a most eloquent speech of acceptance. The disastrous failure of the Santa Fe Expedition is a matter of history; however, Brenham suffered all the horrors of a long imprisonment in a Mexican dungeon, and like a philosopher he faced his fate, and often cheered his fellow prisoners. Even Santiago's grim prison walls did not awe his brave spirit; for, on April 21, 1842, he made an impressive speech to his sad comrades in which he recounted the glories of San Jacinto's battlefield, where liberty unfurled the flag with a single star. Release came in 1842, and with comrades of the ill-fated expedition, he returned to Austin by way of San Antonio. The citizens of Austin gave an entertainment honoring these soldiers who had been mourned as dead.

Almost immediately, Dr. Brenham joined Alexander Somervell's Expedition; and on November 18, 1842, started to the Rio Grande River. However, having arrived at Laredo, Somervell issued orders for the soldiers to return to Gonzales to be disbanded. Brenham with 299 others flatly refused, and went with Captain William S. Fischer, of Washington County, to a point opposite the Mexican town of Mier. Dr. Brenham was surgeon of the flotilla, or "navy" which descended the Rio Grande to Mier. At Mier the ex-

pedition was defeated by General Pedro Ampudia with an army of 2000 men. At the hacienda de Salado beyond Saltillo, where their captors had corralled them like sheep, Brenham with others perfected plans to escape. To gain freedom it was necessary to charge through a narrow door to the courtyard where guards were stationed with fixed bayonets. As the prisoners had absolutely no means of defense, not even a club, it was obvious that the foremost man would perish. Dr. Brenham volunteered for this fatal post; he said that he was unmarried, and being a soldier of fortune was practically alone in the world. He led the dash for liberty, and killed two of the guards, and had severely wounded the third, when he stumbled and fell directly on the bayonet of his falling enemy. Thus, February 11, 1843, with Christ-like nobility, did the self-sacrificing and chivalrous Dr. Brenham walk in the Divine Master's footsteps, and give his life that his fellow men might have life and liberty.

History presents but few parallels to the life of Dr. Brenham; and historians agree that he was talented and patriotic upon principle for the love of country and the love of liberty, and that he was brave to a fault. Thomas J. Green places him among the patriots, along with Milam, Travis, Grant, Ward, Bowie, Crockett, Fitzgerald and Fannin. His friend Kendall said when he heard of Brenham's death, "Thus died Brenham; and in him Texas lost one of her bravest and most generous spirits."

Captain Claudius Buster, of Washington County, who went with the Mier Expedition, and was released from the Mexican dungeon in 1844, upon his return to Brenham related many interesting stories of the valor of Dr. Brenham. He said his high calling made him a very valuable man, and that he ministered to the sick and dying soldiers with all the tenderness of a woman. He told that Dr. Brenham led the charge at the hacienda de Salado, and rushed through a small door, disarming a sentinel as he went. With the bayonet wrested from his enemy this athlete killed two of the guards and had mortally wounded the third, when death stilled his brave heart.

Hon. Guy M. Bryan in a letter to Mrs. Rosa Freeman Ferrell of Anson, Jones County, Texas, who is a relative of Dr. Brenham, has this to say: "At Salado Dr. Brenham led the attack upon his guards with the expectation of being killed, that his comrades might escape. I remember how he was spoken of with love and admiration by all Texans. The town of Brenham, Texas, is named in his honor."

This man was a hero; and at every turn in his illustrious life there is some reminder ample enough to stimulate the loftiest patriotism, and to make his memory loved and venerated with pride by every loyal citizen of Brenham. May the name, Brenham, be spoken as a household word for centuries to come.

SAN JACINTO ORATION DELIVERED BY DR. RICHARD FOX
BRENHAM, IN AUSTIN, APRIL 21, 1840.

Fellow Citizens:

The love of power is a principle inherent in man, and from the remotest period of antiquity to the present time, no age has passed without an exhibition of its baneful influence, to the destruction of the liberty and happiness of some portion of mankind. Had human nature been untainted with this dangerous passion, the pages of history would be unstained by the record of national turpitude and civil commotion. But the annals of every nation worthy of the recording testimony of historians, conclusively illustrate the dangerous tendency of misdirected ambition, and present abundant examples to teach us that no people have ever achieved political greatness and national renown without passing through the fiery ordeal of revolution, and resisting with the energy of free men the rude assaults and alarming encroachments of despotic power. The attainment of civil liberty and establishment of national independence by a people whose rights have been trampled upon by tyrannical rulers, and whose persons and property have been sacrificed without regard to law or justice, has ever been attended by scenes of danger, tumult and disaster. In addition to the examples of past ages, Texas presents to the world another instance of emancipation from arbitrary thralldom to brighten the galaxy of existing nations, and enlighten posterity upon the value of political freedom. She has emerged from the darkness of despotism in which she was shrouded, and now basks in the radiance of liberty. She has cast off the bonds that fettered her people, and assumed the lofty attitude of an independent republic. No longer are our people goaded by the taunts, and afflicted by the harsh dominations of usurping authorities. No longer do we see the myrmidons of oppression enforcing partial and unjust laws, and harassing our citizens with official rapacity. No! A change has come over the scene, the corrupt and mercenary brigands who sought to fasten upon this country the galling yoke of a barbarous government have been discomfited and driven back to the land from whence they came with shame and dishonor. Broken, humiliated and dismayed, they fled in consternation to their own land, but carried with them in

their retreat a lesson of Texas valor and mercy, which neither time nor circumstances can obliterate.

We are assembled this day to commemorate the closing act of that national drama which terminated in the erection of a new and independent state, and gave to us a separate political existence. We are met here to honor an achievement that in future ages will rank among the brightest deeds of chivalry. An event that sealed the triumph of intelligence and civil freedom over the grovelling prejudices of ignorance and superstition. An action that elevated our country to a level with the proudest republics of antiquity—whose citizens made every town a fortress and every plain a battlefield rather than submit to the dictation of arbitrary power. The battle of San Jacinto concluded a controversy in which the great principle of human rights was involved. However interesting the subject, it cannot be expected that I should on this occasion indulge in a minute detail of all the incidents which preceded that brilliant consummation. They are before the world, and no one in the sound of my voice can be ignorant of the circumstances of that glorious struggle. I will speak, however, of the condition of Texas previous to, and at the time of the revolution—of the leading causes which produced that event and changed the destiny of a people, and of the character of those who by their patient suffering, fortitude, and valor achieved the rights and privileges which we now enjoy. But a few years since this rich domain—the fairest portion of the universe—was held in possession by a degenerate race, incapable of estimating their inheritance, or developing the resources with which it was so richly endowed by nature. The Mexican population who then inhabited the province of Texas were sunk to the lowest stage of human existence. Without a commerce to profit by an intercourse with other countries, without agricultural industries to unfold the latent resources of their own land, unrefined by education and the arts that elevate and give tone to the character of man, they were scarcely raised above the condition of the untutored savage who roams over the western plains unchecked, and uncontrolled by the laws of God or the spirit of humanity. The country was exposed on every side to the constant depredations of the various hordes of Indians which infested its borders. Only the shadow of a government existed here then; anarchy and licentiousness reigned supreme over the land, and tumult and disorder marked the conduct of the people. The Mexican authorities with the view of improving the condition of the citizens inhabiting this territory, and giving them protection from hostile barbarians, invited immigration from abroad. They promised to those who came an

equal participation in the government, and the unrestricted enjoyment of the same rights and privileges they had possessed in their native land. But how was that pledge fulfilled? The events which rapidly followed the settlement of the country by the Anglo-Americans have demonstrated to the world the perfidy of that government which induced them to leave their homes and embark in the perilous adventure of colonizing a frontier country. But they came; and they brought with them the courage, energy and spirit of enterprise that has ever distinguished their race. They brought with them the principles of free government, and the same ardent love of liberty that impelled their ancestors to fly from the oppression of British tyranny, and plant the standard of civil and religious liberty in the wilderness of America. Pursuing the system of their fathers they soon redeemed the country from the state of degradation and barbarism to which it had been reduced by a reckless, ignorant and disorderly community. They spread the light of intelligence over the land; the arts were put in successful operation; and the hand of industry was rapidly displaying the wealth of a soil which nature had so lavishly gifted with the elements of fertility. The chaotic gloom that pervaded and almost overwhelmed the country with despair was soon dispelled; organization was effected and the future beamed upon the people with the rich promise of prosperity.

But the hopes entertained by those who had risked their all in reliance on the pledges of a faithless government were doomed to early disappointment. The guarantee which was proffered them for the preservation of their political rights, the promotion of domestic tranquillity and individual interests, was only given to delude a generous, confiding and unsuspecting people. The elements which then composed the community of Texas were of a conflicting character and could not commingle in harmonious action. Ignorance and depravity must ever yield to the supremacy of intelligence and virtue. No two distinct races of men, divided as the poles are asunder, in all the attributes that form human character, can ever be reconciled to peaceful union. The laws of nature are fixed and unchangeable, and cannot be varied from their course by the dictum of any earthly power. As well you might attempt to pluck one of the shining lights that glitter in the firmament of heaven from its place as to endeavor to unite in concord and congeniality the base and degraded spirit of the degenerate Mexican, with the proud, free and untrammelled soul of the legitimate white man. The past history and present condition of the Mexican nation clearly proves their incapacity to appreciate republican principles, or to exist in quietude under a free government.

Whilst every other people have been gradually advancing in the scale of civilization and refinement, they have scarcely moved a single degree, in the course of time, from the debased condition in which they were found by the Spanish conqueror in the sixteenth century. Could such a people expect to hold in political bondage a race of men who inhaled at their birth the atmosphere of liberty? and whose fathers successfully resisted the oppression of the most powerful kingdom of Europe, and erected a government that is now the admiration of the world?

The rapid advancement of the Texans in all that tends to elevate and dignify the character of a community, together with the dissemination of the principles inherited from their ancestors, soon aroused the jealousy and mistrust of the Mexican government, which looked with dread and apprehension on everything calculated to awaken their abject populace to a sense of their political disfranchisement and moral degradation. The usurping faction then holding sway over Mexico, determined to maintain their supremacy at all hazards, resorted to unconstitutional and arbitrary measures to check the tide of improvement, and crush the spirit of liberty which was fast elevating Texas above the rank of the neighboring provinces. No means that tyranny could adopt in the subversion of the liberties of a people were neglected by the party in power. Every principle of constitutional liberty was violated, the rights of the people disregarded, innovation succeeded innovation, wrongs accumulated, until the government which was instituted to promote happiness of all was changed into an instrument of tyranny in the hands of a few, and its power abused for the infliction of calamity on those whom it was intended to protect.

The peaceful means of petition and remonstrance failed to produce a change in the conduct of the ruling powers. Their purpose was fixed and they heeded not the voice of supplication or the claims of justice. The representative of Texas, who traveled through toil and danger to the distant seat of government to obtain a redress of grievances and a revocation of unjust enactments, was received with contempt and contumely—insulted with public scorn—deprived of personal liberty, and incarcerated in a dungeon. It will not be improper here to speak of that man, who by his enthusiastic zeal and unconquerable energy, raised a country from a state of vassalage and subjection to an independent sovereignty, and fixed his name high in the catalogue of the benefactors of mankind. Where will you find a parallel to the character of Stephen F. Austin? His firmness, constancy and fortitude in pursuing the ends dictated

by the principles of justice, and the public good of his country, command the gratitude and admiration of all whose hearts beat responsive to the call of philanthropy, or glow with the impulse of patriotism. No dazzling halo of glory, won by brilliant achievements in the field, or splendid exhibitions in the forum, encircles his name. The laurels that he won were gained by the practice of inflexible integrity and devotion to the cause of humanity, and can neither be withered by the voice of detraction nor the vicissitudes of time. Though his spirit has ascended from the sphere of human action, the example of his life is the richest legacy he could bequeath to those who lament his departure, and his name will be remembered with affection and honored with praise as long as virtue and patriotism have an abiding place in the hearts of his countrymen.

The constitution of 1824, which was framed for the protection of the rights of all the citizens of the Mexican confederacy, was abolished by the ruling dynasty, and an attempt was made to destroy every vestige of liberty remaining in Texas by the subversion of the civil authorities and the establishment of military power. Injuries were multiplied and aggression repeated in such rapid succession that longer forbearance by the citizens of Texas became criminal neglect of their own rights and of the duty to posterity. They rose in the majesty of their strength, concentrated their forces for resistance to oppression, and declared themselves free, sovereign and independent. Though few in numbers and destitute of all the means and appliances which render an army terrible to an enemy, the people of Texas sounded the note of preparation to meet the emergency with which they were threatened, and vindicate their rights upon the field of battle. It was not long before the storm which had been lowering over the western horizon burst forth in all its fury. The enemy came on in the pride and pomp of power, threatening the extermination of our citizens, and the destruction of the fabric of government they had erected. For a time their march was a march of victory, but the victories they won were sullied by the unrighteous cause in which they were achieved and dishonored by the dark deeds of treacherous barbarity. The first conflict that ensued upon the invasion of our territory was a warning to the enemy of the character of those whom they sought to conquer, and showed to the world that the destiny of Texas was placed in the hands of men worthy of the birthright of freedom, and who valued the liberty of their country as the jewel of their souls. The fall of the Alamo was the death-knell of as gallant a band of heroes as ever fell in defense of human rights. Though it flattered our

foes with the delusive hope of conquest of our country, it roused the spirit of avenging justice throughout the land, which was not still until ample retribution was made upon the altar of liberty.

The bloody scenes which occurred during the march of the enemy through Western Texas are fresh in the recollections of all who now hear me. They have stamped the Mexican name with infamy throughout the civilized world, and guaranteed to them the execration of mankind as long as remorseless treachery, cruelty and murder are held in detestation by the human race. Every principle of civilized warfare, and every feeling of humanity were repudiated by the advancing legions of Santa Anna. Their progress was marked by rapine and massacre, unredeemed by a single act of conciliating mercy. With vandal fury they came sweeping on in the might of numbers and pride of victory, breathing the spirit of slaughter, and avowing the purpose of extermination to all who were armed in defense of the invaded country. But their victorious career was destined soon to receive a check, their pride to be humiliated, and their power to be destroyed. On the plains of San Jacinto they were encountered by that small but gallant band of patriots upon whose exertions were then depending the liberty,—the very existence of the country. Every one here must be familiar with the circumstances of that battle, and many are present who participated in the engagement, and can testify as living witnesses to the glory of the achievement. In that brief but glorious conflict the power of the invader was broken never to be resuscitated; their boasting leader made captive in the hands of those whom he sought to enslave, and the gaudy banner of tyranny trampled under the feet of free men; then the star of Texas, glittering with the effulgence of victory, rose to the point of culmination, throwing the light of liberty wide over the land, "broad and general as the casing air."

I have thus, in obedience to custom, briefly sketched forth the progress of our country to the conclusion of the time in which the political destiny of Texas was involved, and the termination of which gave to our government a permanent existence.

We are now living under the beneficent influence of a written constitution, emanating from ourselves, and enjoying the protection of laws framed in accordance with the principles of that sacred charter. And it now becomes us to consider the dangers which may hereafter threaten our institutions, and the means by which they may be preserved and transmitted to our successors unpolluted by the breath of friction, or the disorganizing spirit of ambition.

It has been customary on occasions like the present for the speakers to dilate upon the characters and censure or condemn the actions of those men who have been distinguished in history as the destroyers of the liberty of their countries. Caesar, Cromwell, Bonaparte and others, whose names have been rendered famous by their deeds, which are familiar to all who are conversant with the past, have long been presented to the gaze of the world as warnings against the influence of tyranny. Time after time have execrations been heaped upon their memories, and their examples preached forth as lessons of instruction to guard the people against the encroachments of despotism. But however much we may condemn the conduct of those men, it is not to them alone that we should charge the calamities which their careers inflicted upon mankind.

Every one who is acquainted with human nature is well aware that the predominant and most dangerous passion of man is ambition. And I hold and avow the doctrine that no single individual is to be held responsible alone for the subversion of the liberties of his country. Unless the great majority of the national community are poisoned by the corrupting influence of faction, and bow with tameness and submission to the advancing strides of usurpation, no unprincipled, factious and ambitious citizen can elevate himself to the pinnacle of power and triumph over the ruins of the constitution of his country. The power of government is derived from the people, and if they are so blind to their own essential interests as to delegate that power into the hands of men unworthy of the trust, they must be held accountable for the disastrous consequences which may result from its abuse by the agents whom they have clothed with authority.

You are the source from whence all official authority emanates, and for the protection of your property and the promotion of your interests and happiness, it is your imperious duty as citizens of a free republic to understand the constitution and laws of your country, to appreciate the rights with which you are vested, and to guard them with untiring vigilance against every assault that may endanger their safety. In the formation of our government we have benefited by the experience of past ages—incorporating into our system those principles of the ancient republics that tend to the preservation of human liberty, and at the same time we have discarded those features of their constitutions which militate against the spirit of republican equality.

No ranks of distinction exist in the political organization that we have established to disturb the harmony and excite

dissension in the national community. All possess the same freedom, all enjoy the same privileges, and upon all rests the same degree of responsibility to sustain the government they have adopted. The time has gone by when the position of nations was governed by the action of physical power alone—when the fate of empires was decided by the strife of battling legions. The influence that now controls the mass of mankind is mightier than the armed hosts that in former times shocked the world with their collisions. Public opinion, enlightened by intelligence, and based upon the broad principles of equality and rational liberty, is now the great lever which moves and governs the destiny of nations.

Texas has now nothing to dread from the force of external powers; whilst the integrity of our government is maintained unimpaired—our intercourse with foreign nations conducted in accordance with the established principles of national law, and our policy dictated by justice and guided by wisdom—we must ever command the respect of the world, and reap the rich reward of a reciprocity of interests.

The storms of faction engendered by the destructive spirit of party are now the only cause to excite apprehensions in the mind of the reflecting patriot. When that dangerous evil that has crumbled into ruins the proudest monuments of human wisdom is subdued by the purification of public sentiment, and the whole mass of society moves on in harmonious concord, giving to our government by their united action stability, dignity and power, then, and not until then, will Texas be free, prosperous and happy. Then when in future ages the transactions of our country are recorded for the instruction of posterity, let the historian tell to the world, in characters of blazing light, and in the language of truth and justice, that by the intelligence, virtue and patriotism of her people was reared the prosperity, the greatness and the glory of Texas.

BRENHAM

Nearly seventy-two years ago, in the glorious spring-time, when Texas was a republic, life began for Brenham in a beautiful post oak grove, where native song birds sang wonderful melodies to fragrant flowers that bloomed on the surrounding prairies, and where quail, wild turkeys, prairie chickens and deer scurried away, frightened at the approach of the settlers. The grove was a princely gift, and good women honored a hero when they gave the new town the name of Brenham. People with inherent love of liberty, the Christian religion, education and progress came and built homes and were blessed with health, happiness and prosperity. The little place advanced along steady and sure lines, but with all the sunshine there were some shadows, too. During the civil war many husbands, fathers and sons donned the Confederate gray and marched away; and some of them never returned to the firesides where afterwards sat the sad widows, mothers, daughters and sweethearts. Those who came back had to rehabilitate their broken fortunes and establish anew their households. Great calamities came with the awful yellow fever, and with the big fires and two storms. The sturdy city overcame its difficulties; and with unfaltering courage has forged to the front until it can point with pride to commercial connections, railroads, modern stores, industries, estimable women and business men of unquestioned integrity. It is one of the most important little cities in the interior of Texas, and physically, financially, intellectually and religiously it is really a Beautiful Brenham.

SELECTED COUNTY SEAT.

After the Republic of Texas was established, and a constitution had been adopted, the Mexican plan of government was discarded, and counties were organized. The municipality of Washington was organized in July, 1835; and of this territory the counties of Washington, Montgomery, Brazos, Burleson, Lee, Grimes, Madison, Walker and San Jacinto were created. Washington County was created March 17, 1836, and according to records in the capitol at Austin was organized December 14, 1837. The first county seat was Washington on the Brazos. In September, 1841, the county seat was removed to Mount Vernon.

Between 1836 and 1844 the population in the southern and southwestern parts of Washington County increased so rapidly that a change in the seat of government was agitated, and the settlement where Brenham now stands was suggested as being more centrally located. Jesse Farral and James Hurt aided the cause of the settlement by the promise of 100 acres of land for a townsite. On January 31st, 1844, Congress, which was then in session at Washington, responded to the popular appeal and ordered an election for the selection of a permanent county seat. This act also specified that a majority of all the votes cast was necessary to elect. Mount Vernon, Independence, Turkey Creek and Brenham announced. In the contest neither town received a majority, and another election was ordered. Turkey Creek and Mount Vernon dropped out of the race, leaving the field clear for Brenham and Independence. After an extremely exciting race Brenham was victorious by three votes. Her success she owed to the ability and masterly management of J. D. Giddings—one of the brightest and most influential citizens in the whole country. On horseback he visited every community and made eloquent speeches in behalf of the place so recently named Brenham.

TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

Congress designated William W. Buster, George W. Gentry, Ephriam Roddy, James L. Farquhar, Asa M. Lewis, William Jackson, James Cooper and Joshua Graham as town commissioners of the new county seat; and they were authorized to survey and sell lots in the locality donated by the generosity of Farral and Hurt. The deed of Farral and Hurt of 100 acres of land was executed April 18, 1844. The gift was a part of a tract of land which Farral and Hurt had acquired by purchase from Mrs. Arabella Harrington, the boundary lines being as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the First Baptist church, thence with east line of Market street to the northwest corner of Germania lot, thence west with the street from Germania to West street, thence with West street north to a point running a parallel line with south line of 100 acres to the place of beginning.

AUCTION SALE OF LOTS.

An auction sale of town lots the latter part of April attracted many people to the new seat of justice. The lots on the corners of the square brought only \$15.00 to \$17.00, and some excellent sites were purchased at \$3.00.

FIRST INHABITANTS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

In February, 1844, there was no one living in the original townsite of 100 acres donated by Farral and Hurt; and there were few people residing in the settlement. In the rear of the Anthony hotel, outside of the townsite, was the rudely constructed house in which Jesse Farral, James Hurt and their families lived. Joseph Ralston's store was north of this dwelling. Ralston owned a number of goats, and as they were continuously around his place of business, the inhabitants dubbed the street "Goat Row," and it was so known until its name was changed to Market, June 13, 1874. Adjoining Ralston's, and on the north also, was a small log house in which the papers of the county were kept by District Clerk J. D. Giddings, pending the building of the court house.

A list of those living in the settlement, including the farmers who resided within a radius of three or four miles, in the spring of 1844, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows: Mrs. Arabella Harrington, whose league of land was granted March 22, 1831, under the colonization laws of Coahuila and Texas, and upon which the whole of Brenham, and much of the surrounding country, is situated, lived in the most beautiful part of her possessions, *i. e.*, on the branch which runs past the home in South Brenham of Mrs. Ida Dawson, and just a little removed from Mrs. Dawson's present home. Dennis Harrell lived in the west on the left hand side of the present H. & T. C. railroad bridge. Henry Higgins was at Fireman's Park, with James McRea just across the branch from him. Billie and John Tom owned the land where Mrs. Anna Hermann's home is situated. John Brown lived where Dr. S. Bowers resides. Billie Norris' home was in the east on the branch which runs past Mrs. Ida Dawson's residence. H. C. McIntyre settled on his farm in 1839. Dr. Payne, when he was not practicing medicine or farming, operated a grist mill on the branch which runs through Burney Parker's present farm. L. P. Rucker and B. E. Tarver had farms to the north of Brenham. Joseph Ralston's farm was on Ralston's Creek. Jesse Johnson, or "Tub" Johnson, had a grist mill on Woodward's Creek. Rev. John W. Kenney lived at Kenney. Elliott Allcorn, Billie Cole, James Clemmons, O. H. P. Garrett, Sam Lusk and Sandford Woodward were farmers also.

THE FIRST BUILDING.

The first building to be erected in the original townsite was the court house. It was a small two-story wooden structure, situated on the lot where stands the present court house. Joe Tom, Joe Miller and Hugh Sherrold were the

architects. The first county judge of Washington County who presided in Brenham was William H. Ewing. The first district court was held by Judge R. E. B. Baylor, with "Ramrod" Johnson as district attorney, and J. D. Giddings district clerk. The first sheriff was James W. McDade. Among the first county clerks were John Gray and Sam Lusk; and the early sheriffs were James W. McDade, James L. Dallas and Van Irons. The prominent lawyers were R. E. B. Baylor, J. D. Giddings, Asa M. Lewis, J. & A. H. Willie, W. H. Higgins, John Sayles, W. Y. McFarland, Joe Crosby, G. W. Horton, W. H. Ewing, Barrey Gillespie, B. E. Tarver, J. E. & C. B. Shepard, W. P. Rogers.

FIRST HOME.

Asa M. Lewis, in the spring of 1844, built a handsome home, for those times, on the vacant lot opposite the residence of Mrs. Julia R. Simon. This was the second building to be erected in the town, and it was a matter of great pride that it was cemented inside and out, and was equipped with glass windows—the only ones in the whole settlement.

EARLY SETTLERS.

At the close of the '40s and the beginning of the '50s Brenham had a roster of citizens which included J. D. Giddings, Sam Lusk, John B. Wilkins, D. D. Crumpler, George B. Cooke, C. F. Barber, James McRea, William Pressley, W. H. Ewing, David Estes, Jones Rivers, J. C. Mundine, William and Joe McCutcheon, G. W. Buchanan, W. W. Hackworth, L. Dupuy, James Stockton, James G. Heffington, Hugh Sherrold, Joe Miller, Joe and John Tom, Billie Norris, John Day, Vardeman Lee, Dr. Blake, Dr. Ware, Dr. J. P. Key, Captain Early and their families; Mrs. Jameson, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Ewing and her son, Wash Ewing, Mrs. Paritz and daughters. Among the young and unmarried men were Robert D. Harris, Johnson Hensley, Alex Simon, James A. Wilkins, W. G. Wilkins, W. H. Higgins, Rafe Fuller, John Brophy, Charles G. Stockbridge, Dr. A. H. Rippetoe, D. C. Giddings, Thomas W. Morriss, J. E. Gray, J. C. Cade, John Petty, the Bassetts, J. N. Houston, George Wilson, Edmondson, McIlhenney, Murdock, J. S. Young and Dr. Noel. Dr. Blake was a homeopathic, and Drs. Rippetoe, Noel and Key were allopathic physicians. The prominent young ladies were Misses Malinda, Bersheba and Myra Lusk, Sallie and Harriet McIntyre, Mary Portis, Mary Pressley, Sallie and Mary Cooke.

EARLY STORES.

The early stores were conducted by Joe Ralston, Brown & Wilkins, Harmon & Levison, French & Nunn, who handled general merchandise; G. B. Cooke and Elliott Allcorn, who sold dry goods, and J. G. Knapp and Rafe Fuller, who were proprietors of a tinshop and a saddle shop, respectively.

The first meat market was run by John Hensley and Jonathan Hensley, two brothers. As these butchers had no scales, they weighed the meat with more or less accuracy, by holding it up and shaking it in their hands. They were pioneers in doing business on a strictly cash basis. Occasionally when some improvident customer inveigled them into granting credit, they invariably posted that customer's name with charcoal on the market house door, so that everybody in town might see the amount of his indebtedness.

FIRST CENSUS.

1928759

The first census of Washington County was taken in 1850 by James A. Wilkins, under the direction of E. D. Little, and there was a population of 5,983, as follows: Whites, male 1,736, female 1,430; total whites 3,166; negroes who were slaves, male 1,416, female 1,401, totaling 2,817 slaves. Brenham city was not separately returned until the census of 1860, when the population consisted of 600 whites and 300 slaves.

COURT HOUSES.

In 1855 the court house was found inadequate to meet the requirements of the officials, and a new one was built of brick, the brick being manufactured in Brenham; John Stamps was the contractor, and when the building was completed it was the most imposing in the whole county. The present court house was built in 1884, at a cost of \$65,000.00. C. R. Breedlove was county judge.

New citizens arrived every year, new houses were constructed, and the small town became a business center. After the removal of the capital and decline of river navigation, a great many people moved from Washington to Brenham. Social conditions improved, for sensible men and women can always adapt themselves to circumstances. Although many of these pioneers missed the luxuries of the States which they had so recently left, they were as happy and cheerful as when they possessed all the comforts and conveniences of life. The old Texan hospitality was proverbial. In the communities there was nothing that they would not share with each other. The stranger

was invariably met at the gate with a cordial welcome, and he was gladly entertained, without money and without price, as long as he chose to stay.

RAILROADS.

The great trouble and expense incident to hauling merchandise, supplies, etc., by wagons from Washington and Houston, brought Brenhamites to the early realization of the necessity of establishing railroad communication with outside points. The first advocate and the most earnest advocate of a railroad, was J. D. Giddings, and with the patriotism that characterized his every movement where Brenham was concerned, he endeavored to build it. With the aid of his brother, D. C. Giddings, he organized the Washington County Railroad Company, which received its charter February 2, 1856; and he was the first president of the organization, with A. G. Compton as secretary. The contract was awarded King, Sledge & Company. J. D. Giddings made several trips to New York and Pennsylvania, where he personally purchased the rolling stock and all the supplies. Among the purchases was a big engine, named the "J. D. Giddings," which was considered the finest in Texas. Jacob Fetterly was the first engineer, and after a short service he was succeeded by W. F. Ray. In May, 1858, 11½ miles of the railroad were completed, and beginning with October 1, 1860, trains were operated from Hempstead to Brenham, a distance of 21 miles. In 1871 the Houston & Texas Central bought this short line, which they extended to Austin; the first train arriving in the capital city on Christmas day. The machine shops and terminals were removed from Brenham at that time.

Brenham's second railroad, the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, was built in 1879.

CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS.

Patriotism asserted itself in 1861, and many veterans who had helped Texas wrest her freedom from despotic Mexico shouldered their old muskets and marched side by side with beardless youths, at the Southland's call to arms. It was a sad crisis in the life of the little town. An old newspaper of this period states that Washington County had, in June, 1861, an army of 1,000 men, all tolerably well armed; and that a camp of 600 men drilled daily during that month near Brenham. The La Bahia Rifles of 100 men, with Captain Lauderdale commanding, were from Gay Hill, and they carried a silken banner made by the young ladies of that vicinity, which was presented by Miss Lucie Atkinson at a camp drill held at old Mount Vernon in July, 1861. Some of the companies that went from Bren-

ham and Washington County, in which Brenham citizens were enlisted, included: For Green's Brigade, 5th Texas Cavalry, Company E, of Brenham, with Hugh McPhail captain, and Company F, with George W. Campbell, of Long Point, captain; in 5th Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade, were the "Dixie Blues," John D. Rogers of Washington, captain; Company I, of 5th Texas Infantry, J. B. Robertson, of Independence, captain. T. N. Waul's Legion company was organized on New Year's Creek, about six miles from Brenham. Col. D. C. Giddings went with the 21st Texas Cavalry to Arkansas. Captain Claudius Buster of Chappell Hill took a company to Galveston, where it joined Elmore's Regiment. Marold was captain of Company E, 16th Texas Infantry. Quite a number of Brenhamites joined Terry's Texas Rangers. The soldiers of Washington County were brave to a fault, and just as true as steel, and the war record of each one is above reproach.

RECONSTRUCTION DAYS.

Reconstruction came with the end of the awful war. In July, 1865, Brenham was made a military post, and the Federal soldiers were camped at Camptown; from which circumstance this colored addition to Brenham derives its name. Commanders were changed many times. Post and Sanders were respectable; but "House Burning Smith," as he was called, gave much trouble. The soldiers and the young men of the town became involved in a controversy at a ball on the evening of September 7, 1866. The soldiers intruded into the ball room, and tried to bring some negro women with them. This the fiery Southerners resented, with the result that a man named Wyatt wounded two Federal soldiers and killed a third. John A. Shepard and H. K. Harrison counseled peace without avail. Late that night the soldiers, in revenge, burned the block of buildings in which was situated the hall where the dance occurred. The Brenham Banner's plant, owned by Daniel McGary and John G. Rankin, was also destroyed, but in settlement of another score. McGary, the editor, was made a prisoner because he had exposed the "Freedmen's Bureau," in charge of S. A. Craig, and denounced the Federal soldiers in the columns of the paper. From his cell in the jail, where he suffered imprisonment for 14 days, the intrepid newspaper man continued to write fiery editorials, with the result that many wrongs were redressed. This combination of affairs led to the formation of the Ku Klux Klan, of which a lawyer named Adams was the captain, and the organization of the Hook and Ladder Company—ostensibly a volunteer fire company, but in reality a military company, whose duty was to protect the lives

and property of the citizens from the Federal soldiers. Military rule lasted until the latter part of 1869, when the Federal soldiers were removed.

During his services as Representative, Col. D. C. Giddings introduced a bill in Congress asking that the Brenham citizens, who suffered property losses by this disastrous fire, and by another fire, in 1867, in which the Federal soldiers again burned a section of Brenham, be reimbursed for their losses. He filed the original list of claimants; nothing, however, was accomplished. Efforts were made by later Congressmen to secure the passage of this bill, but without avail. On December 14, 1915, Representative A. W. Gregg again placed the Brenham war claims before Congress. These claims growing out of the wanton destruction by fire (originated by the Federal soldiers) of sections of the town of Brenham, now amount to \$131,026.00.

FIRST BANK.

It became necessary at this period to establish a bank to handle the commercial interests of the people; and in 1886 the bank of Giddings & Giddings opened its doors for business. J. D. and D. C. Giddings constituted the firm.

THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC.

Next to the civil war, the saddest and greatest trouble ever visited upon the city was the yellow fever scourge of 1867. The town was almost devastated, and many victims were interred in the old Masonic Cemetery. The death list of the Federal soldiers was very great. Among the brave citizens who did valiant service in this time of great distress was Col. D. C. Giddings. He nursed the sick and dying, shrouded the dead, comforted the living, and always his purse was open to the poor and needy. The noble physicians who labored night and day were John P. Key, A. H. Rippetoe, A. G. Gilder, Stockbridge, John L. Watkins, J. T. Norris and Ashbel Smith. Death claimed Dr. Key and Dr. Watkins. It took Brenham many years to recover from this blow.

BIG FIRE.

Another affliction came with the big fire of 1873, in which all the buildings lying between Baylor and St. Charles streets, from the H. & T. C. railroad on the south to Schirmacher's drug store on the north, were totally destroyed. All of these buildings were constructed of wood.

GERMANIA VEREIN.

The Germania Verein was organized December 4, 1870, by C. Witteborg, C. Scheutze, F. Gehrmann, R. Hoffmann,

H. Levy, A. G. Koenig, L. Zeiss, J. C. Neumann, Theodore Giesecke and H. Scheuchs. The charter was granted in October, 1871. It is one of the oldest purely social organizations in Texas; and for forty-five years it has made life pleasant for its various members and for many other people. The capacious grounds were acquired in 1870, and each year something has been done to improve the place, until "Germania Park" is known as one of Brenham's beauty spots. It is a great social center.

BANKS.

In 1866 B. H. and Jefferson Bassett organized the Bank of Bassett and Bassett, which was discontinued in 1884. The F. A. Engelke Bank, organized in the '70s, became the First National Bank in 1883, with F. A. Engelke president and J. N. Brown cashier. The "Heber Stone Bank," which had been founded in 1889, was consolidated with the First National in 1890, and Heber Stone, who owned the controlling interest, was made president. H. F. Hohlt is at the head of this banking house now, and C. L. Wilkins is cashier.

On August 15, 1905, the Washington County State Bank opened for business, with H. K. Harrison as president and J. S. Giddings cashier. The officers at present are F. H. Bosse, president, and James S. Harrison, cashier. These two banks, with the Giddings & Giddings Bank, constitute the city's financial institutions.

SOME PIONEER MERCHANTS.

A list of the merchants who were in business in Brenham during and immediately after the war, reconstruction days and yellow fever epidemic, included Wilkins Brothers, Thomas H. Dwyer, Robert Crow and Atreus McCrary, Wood and Green, Harmon and Levinson, William Zeiss, M. A. Healy, Alex Simon, Henry E. Lockett, William Axer and Peter Diller, John Lusk, Carrington and Brophy, John Norton, Bolling Eldridge, R. Hoffmann, Watkins and Wright, S. S. Hosea, Henry Wood, "Bud" Chadwick and Miesner. The bank of Giddings & Giddings was established in 1866. The only hotel in the town at this period was the "McIntyre Hotel," a two-story frame structure situated on the lot where the Anthony Hotel now stands. In 1873, H. C. McIntyre built what is now the Anthony Hotel, at a cost of \$40,000.00, and it rented for the first year at \$400.00 per month. There were very few brick store houses.

Of these merchants there are four only living, i. e., James A. Wilkins, William Zeiss, M. A. Healy and Bolling Eld-

ridge; two, James A. Wilkins and William Zeiss, have retired, and two, M. A. Healy and Bolling Eldridge, are still in business.

JAMES A. WILKINS.

James A. Wilkins' work in the mercantile business began in January, 1844, when he was nearly thirteen years of age, in the store of his father, John B. Wilkins—then the second store in the settlement which became Brenham—and when he was not attending school at the Hickory Grove School, he was clerking. As soon as he attained his majority he went into business for himself, and at the commencement of the war between the States he had the biggest general merchandise store in Brenham. His love of country caused him to enter the army, and he enlisted in Captain I. M. Onins' Company, Colonel George Giddings' Battalion, serving four years as quartermaster. At the close of hostilities he returned to Brenham, and, associated with his brothers, John and W. G. Wilkins, again embarked in the mercantile business. During the close of the '70s Mr. Wilkins retired, and in 1883 was elected mayor of the city of Brenham, serving for twenty-two years in that capacity. In 1905, on account of advancing age, he declined to become a candidate for re-election. He is an Odd Fellow, and holds a fifty-year medal in that organization; has been a Mason since he was twenty-one, and is a charter member of Brenham Royal Arch Chapter.

James A. Wilkins is well preserved for a man of eighty-four; and, even though he is old, he still has the clear head, the strong arm, and true heart that helped him conquer adversity and win for himself honors among his fellowmen.

THOMAS DWYER.

Few merchants in the early days of Texas achieved a greater degree of success than did Thomas Dwyer. This pioneer was a member of a prominent Irish family. Upon the death of his parents he decided to leave his beloved Ireland. Though scarcely sixteen years of age, the indomitable will power and self-reliance that characterized his whole life was fully developed, and unafraid he went forth to find a home and a fortune in America. He landed at Boston, and later found work in a logging camp in Maine. The extreme cold necessitated a change of climate, and he came South to Texas, and opened a small store in Brazoria in 1849. Trade increased, prosperity came, and another store was established at Quintana, and still another in Columbia. This work required many trips to remote points, over rarely traveled roads, in the delivery of goods, and

sometimes the pay was cash, sometimes in cotton or corn, and one time a drove of Spanish ponies was taken in exchange for a big bill of jewelry, which the purchaser traded to the Indians. Mr. Dwyer cleared \$3,000.00 on his horses in this single deal.

In 1858 he disposed of his holdings in the lower country and came immediately to Brenham, and opened a general merchandise store. He invested heavily in real estate, and in 1874 built the big brick building on Main street, which he occupied for many years.

Mr. Dwyer was twice married; his first wife was Theresa Healy, to whom he was married in Brazoria in 1855, and the children by this union were Mrs. Mary Dwyer Ross, William E., Charles G., Thomas H., Mrs. Emma Kiber and Mrs. Felix H. Robertson. Mrs. Dwyer died in 1872; and in 1874 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Sarah Diller.

He was very influential in the Republican councils of the State, and his views on political questions were often followed. At one time he was complimented by the party with the nomination as candidate for the high office of Governor of Texas. The Democratic majority, however, that has prevailed in Texas for many decades made his election impossible.

Thomas Dwyer died January 19, 1876. He was a very prominent and influential citizen, and his death was deeply deplored. His fine business ability had enabled him to amass a fortune, which was equally divided among his six children. Mrs. Mary Dwyer Ross is the only representative of this family living in Brenham. She has inherited the excellent business qualifications of her father, and has more than doubled her share of the estate. She manages her property personally, and is one of the wealthiest, and most capable and efficient women in the city.

BOLLING ELDRIDGE.

This estimable man has been in the merchandise business in Brenham since May, 1867. He came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Eldridge, to Washington County in 1849 from Virginia, where he was born in Halifax County. He was educated at Independence, and there received his first experience in commercialism. At the Southland's call to arms he, like the rest of the patriots, abandoned his business and fought for four years in the Confederate Army.

His enlistment was with the Fifth Texas Infantry, Company E, which was a part of Hood's Texas Brigade, and in all of its awful battles he was a gallant and courageous

soldier. Among the engagements in which he participated were West Point, Seven Pines, Gaines' Mill, Second Manassas, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Knoxville, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, Darbytown and many others of lesser note—twenty-eight in all. At Chickamauga he was wounded, and at the Wilderness was shot in the left shoulder. Captain Eldridge surrendered his company at Appomattox Courthouse.

Two years after the expiration of hostilities Bolling Eldridge located in Brenham, and for nearly half of a century has conducted a mercantile business, most of the time in the big brick store house which he now occupies. He has seen Brenham grow from a small place of 700 or 800 people to a city of over 5,000 inhabitants, and he has assisted in its growth, giving freely at all times of his time, talents, and money in its development. As a business man he is honest to the core; and, as a loyal citizen he is ever on the side of right, following always the laws of God and his country. This typical Southern gentleman, and genial ex-Confederate soldier has a host of true friends.

M. A. HEALY.

M. A. Healy, the veteran hardware man, was born in Ireland, and came to America in his youth. For some years he had employment in Brazoria, coming in 1866 to Brenham. He immediately opened a store, and for 49 consecutive years he has been one of the most prominent merchants.

His war record measures up to the standard of an intrepid Confederate soldier—honorable to a fault, and absolutely fearless. His enlistment was with George Giddings' Regiment, in Captain I. M. Onins' Company, with services extending throughout the four years' strife; and, even after the war was ended, for Giddings' Regiment fought the last battle May 13, 1865, down on the Rio Grande River, several weeks after Lee's surrender at Appomattox; and he was a brave soldier in this final engagement.

Mr. Healy married Louise Fordtran, daughter of Charles Fordtran, one of the first German settlers in Texas. During their long residence in Brenham, he and his wife have helped to work out many problems whose solution meant the advancement of Brenham morally, intellectually and financially.

WILLIAM ZEISS.

This staunch German was born in Hesse Cassell, September 19, 1833, and came to Houston when nineteen years of age, arriving after three years in Brenham. He opened

a grocery store and bakery, and for fifty years was in business continuously, retiring in 1903.

William Zeiss is strong and vigorous; time has dealt gently with him, and even if he has reached the extreme age of 82, the period of life when man's health and activities are supposed to be on the wane, he still preserves his interest in life, and his faculties are unimpaired. Close attention to business has brought the reward of wealth, and he has, too, that which is above great riches, the high regard of the citizens of Brenham.

NEWSPAPERS.

William H. Ewing owned, edited and published the first Brenham newspaper. It appeared in 1845, and was called the "Lone Star." The Texas Christian Advocate was first published in this city in 1846, and R. B. Wells was the editor.

D. H. Rankin established the Brenham Enquirer March 3, 1853. Publication was suspended in 1863, owing to the war and inability to secure paper, the last few issues being printed on wall paper. In January, 1866, Daniel McGary and Jno. G. Rankin founded the Southern Watch Tower, which was soon after named the Brenham Banner. A Daily Brenham Banner was established January 1, 1875, and discontinued January 1, 1904. In 1912, J. G. Rankin sold the weekly paper to the Brenham Banner Publishing Company, of which H. F. Hohlt is the president. On October 1, 1913, the company acquired the Brenham Daily Press, and the two papers were consolidated. The publication is now styled the Brenham Banner-Press, with George Neu in charge.

J. L. Watson, who made a fortune in the Mergenthaler Linotype machines, and whose heirs own a controlling interest in the Houston Post, established the Independent during the '80s. This paper was afterwards owned by W. P. Ewing, J. C. Day and T. R. Rivers.

George Tucker bought the Independent in 1895 and changed its name to the Brenham Daily Press. He was editor and proprietor until he disposed of his holdings.

The Texas Volksbote was founded in 1873 by Henry Mueller, and for forty years it has been published weekly, in the German language.

LIBRARY.

The Public Library was established in 1899 by the Fortnightly Club, with a nucleus of about 100 books, contributed by the members and the citizens. At present there

are over 5,000 volumes on the shelves in the library rooms in the City Hall. Miss Annette Ray, the librarian, is on duty every day, and there are many calls for books.

CITY ADMINISTRATION.

The plan of incorporation became very popular in 1858, and on May 29th of that year an election was held to determine the question of incorporating the town of Brenham, the same being one square mile, the lines running due north and south, east and west, with the court house for center. Fifty-one votes were cast for the incorporation and fifteen against. Claudius Buster, Chief Justice of Washington County, opened the returns, and ordered an election Saturday, June 19th, 1858, for a mayor, constable and five aldermen. A count of the votes disclosed the fact that W. H. Cammack and H. C. McIntyre had tied for the office of mayor, with 15 votes each. Adrian Testard was elected constable, and the successful aldermen were William Davis, A. H. Rippetoe, J. P. Pressley, Jeff Bassett and Hugh McPhail. The next city officials were elected August 2nd, 1858, and were W. H. Cammack mayor, James F. Estes constable, and William F. Jarrell, John P. Key, G. M. Buckhanan, James L. Dallas and Sam Lusk aldermen. On the 21st day of August, 1859, Sam Lusk received 80 votes and was elected mayor, R. E. Hardin constable, A. G. Gilder, H. Levinson, J. A. Wilkins, O. P. Carrington and E. F. Ewing constituted the board of aldermen. E. D. Tarver, chief justice, approved this election.

During the war between the States the city government was abandoned, and was not resumed until 1866, when H. C. McIntyre became the mayor. He served from that year until 1869, when Peter Diller, the military appointee, qualified in accordance with an order issued by General J. J. Reynolds. Diller resigned in 1870, and Captain James S. Biddle assumed control. Upon the resignation of Biddle, May 21, 1870, S. S. Hosea served as mayor until December 20 of that year, when he, too, resigned. His successor was N. W. Bush, who resigned March 4, 1871. F. A. Wilkins, appointed by E. J. Davis, served from 1871 to 1873. Russell Shipley served from 1873 until his death, June 17, 1876. M. P. Kerr served from July 1, 1876, until October 19 of that year, when he resigned. J. McFarland served a short while; J. T. J. O'Riordan took charge October 31, 1876, and his tenure of office lasted until April 5, 1878, his successor being M. P. Kerr. Kerr's administration continued until April, 1883, when James A. Wilkins was elected.

For twenty-two years James A. Wilkins guided the destiny of Brenham. When he was first called to serve as mayor city scrip was worth only forty cents on the dollar; it soon advanced to par, where it has ever since remained. The system of water works was purchased November 19, 1894, for a consideration of \$40,000.00 cash, and bonds



CITY HALL

were issued for this purpose. To replace the old city hall, which was burned, a new one was erected, during the close of Mr. Wilkins' administration.

In April, 1905, William Lusk was elected mayor, and for eight years the city made great progress. Among the im-

portant improvements may be cited the building of many miles of concrete sidewalks, the removal of all wooden bridges, which were replaced with concrete arches; the establishment of a sewerage system, and the purchase of better equipment for the fire department, including the fire automobile engine. The water works bonds were bearing 6 per cent interest, and Mayor William Lusk arranged with the State School Fund to take over these securities at 4 per cent, thus saving Brenham by this one transaction \$16,500.00. The High School building was erected in 1907, the Alamo was built in 1913, and the East End colored school house was remodeled in 1913. The water works property was improved by the installation of better machinery, and the building of a new brick house for the plant.

Alex Griffin became mayor in 1913, and served two years. He continued the good work on the public thoroughfares. The city authorized the issuance of \$30,000.00 worth of bonds for the purpose of improving the water works and sewerage system. Plans for these improvements were formulated during Mayor Griffin's term of office.

William Lusk was re-elected mayor in 1915, and he is the present incumbent. Under his direction the contemplated improvements of the water works and sewerage systems have become accomplished facts. He is devoting his energies to the advancement of Brenham along all lines.

The City Ordinances were compiled in 1895, by R. E. Pennington, of the law firm of Campbell & Pennington.

BRENHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Serious trouble with the Federal soldiers, stationed at Camptown, and the burning of a part of Brenham, April 25th, 1867, resulted in the organization of the Brenham Volunteer Fire Department, which was in reality a military organization, whose duties were to protect the lives and property of the citizens during the reconstruction days. The Hook and Ladder Company, numbering 22 men, came into existence May 28, 1867; Col. D. C. Giddings was foreman, J. R. Thomson and R. D. Harris were assistant foremen, W. H. Terrill treasurer, and John A. Shepard secretary. Brenham Protection Fire Company presented its organization at the same time, with the following officers: I. M. Onins, president; C. R. Breedlove, vice president; W. H. Chadwick, secretary; Ed Rundell, foreman, and J. Ward, J. Tom and J. Smith, assistants. These two companies constituted the original fire department. Public cisterns were built on the square to conserve the water

supply for use during fires. On March 9, 1868, the members of the Brenham Fire Protection failed in their organization, and the city took charge of their fire engine.

For almost half of a century the Fire Department has been one of Brenham's most valuable assets. Beginning as soldiers, and continuing as protectors of life and property, the record of active service of its members is a noble and enduring one. The department has not only discharged every duty faithfully and well, but it has provided more pleasure for a greater number of people than any other organization in the city. The annual Mai Fests are spring festivals of great moment, and have a statewide importance. These celebrations had their commencement in 1874, when the German citizens of Washington County, under the auspices of Harugari Lodge, held the first Volksfest in Brenham. Volksfests were held in 1875, 1876 and 1877, and the first queen, Betty Engelke, was crowned in 1877. Augusta Minkwitz was queen in 1878; Selma Engelke in 1879, and Louise Hoffmann in 1880. At this time some financial difficulties caused the Harugari Lodge to turn its holdings over to the Brenham Fire Department, and the first real Maj Fest was held at the old Fair Grounds May 13-14, 1881, with Frankie A. Foote as May Queen. A tabulated list of the succeeding May Queens is as follows: 1882, Annie Spencer; 1883, no record of any Mai Fest being held; 1884, Emily Harris, who was the first Queen whose coronation took place at the Fireman's Park; 1885, Ida Bassett; 1886, Lizzie Lindemann; 1887, Nettie Pampell; 1888, Nannie Clemmons and Eula Gee; 1889, Nettie Estes; 1890, Ethel Muse; 1891, Flowers, represented by Lillian Lindemann, Ella Werner and Jessie Shepard; 1892, Lillian Engelke; 1893, Hettie Harrison; 1894, Hester Abbott; 1895 marks the date of the building of the Summer Theatre, and the production of the operetta written by W. P. Ewing and H. H. R. Hertzberg, and set to music by W. A. Jakel. The leading character was Mrs. L. J. Lockett; 1896, "Toy Shop," written by W. P. Ewing, and set to music by W. A. Jakel, was presented, with Mrs. Louis M. Simon as the most prominent character; 1897, Julia Epstein; 1898, Bertha Becker; 1899, Mary Stone; 1900, Julia Epstein; 1901, Lillian Lindemann; 1902, Alita Gardner; 1903, Susan Shepard; 1904, Elise Lockett; 1905, Mackadee Barnett; 1906, Julia Salley; 1907, Therese Dee Ross; 1908, Florence Seward, Bertha Schuerenberg, Louise Giddings, Ethel Tucker, Olga Van Hutton, Annie Marek, Corinne Huettig and Minnie Seelhorst were queens of the nations; 1909, Minnie Lee Gehrmann; 1910, Lila Shepard; 1911, Louise Stone; 1912, Florence Simmons; 1913, Susie Lipscomb; 1914, Edna Buck; 1915, Gladys Baumgart.

Fireman's Park was purchased by the department in 1884, and each year succeeding some improvements have been made. Many notable events have taken place within its confines.

EDUCATION.

Inattention to the importance of educational interests cannot be charged to Brenhamites; for even before Brenham became the county seat, "Hickory Grove School" was known far and wide as an excellent school for boys and girls, and there were pupils from many surrounding places. The school house was situated in a hickory grove—from which it derived its name—about 100 yards south of the J. B. Wilkin residence in North Brenham. It was built, in 1840, of cedar logs prepared with a whip-saw and had a puncheon floor, puncheon benches, but no desks. The first teacher was James Mitchell, who had an enviable reputation as an educator. Many years ago he moved to Fort Worth, where he died. Rev. L. P. Rucker was the second, and General John Sayles was the third teacher. After the Masons took charge of "Hickory Grove School," they changed the name to the "Masonic Academy," and in 1848 or 1849 they built a new and larger house of cedar. "Hickory Grove School" was used as a church during the early history of Brenham, and ministers of every denomination preached within its walls. When free schools were opened in Brenham the attendance at the Masonic Academy declined, and it was closed in 1875, when Graham Lodge No. 20 presented the property to the city of Brenham.

Mrs. W. H. Ewing, who afterwards became Mrs. Horton, taught a private school during the late '40s. Mrs. Fannie Cooke was also one of the early teachers. When the Constitution of 1869 directed that there should be maintained free schools throughout Texas, D. D. Crumpler and Mrs. Asa M. Lewis opened the first free schools, which they successfully conducted until the advent of the Brenham Public Schools.

BRENHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The 14th Legislature passed a bill, March 25, 1875, which authorized the amendment of the charters of towns and cities, so as to give the city councils the power to collect a special school tax for the maintenance of the public schools within their corporate limits, and giving them exclusive control thereof. Acting under this new law the council of the city of Brenham on April 26, 1875, passed resolutions accepting the benefits of this new law, and levied an annual ad valorem tax of one-fourth of one per cent on each dollar's

worth of taxable property. School began September 6, 1875, and lasted 40 weeks. The first superintendent was W. C. Rote of Pennsylvania, and the teachers were A. C. Jessen, who taught German; Mrs. W. A. Lockett, Miss Mary Rial and Miss Kate Saunders, their certificates having been issued by Russell Shipley, the mayor. The free school for negroes was opened on the same date, with J. H. Morriss in charge. School was conducted in the old Key home, on the site of the Sacred Heart convent, then owned by E. P. Davis, and a monthly rental of \$50.00 was paid until the city purchased the land from Davis, October 22, 1877, for a consideration of \$2,500.00. The new two-story brick building, costing \$10,000.00, was constructed during 1878, by popular subscription, and with the addition of \$1,000.00 derived from the sale of the old Masonic Academy lot, donated by Graham Lodge. Rote made his last report to the council May 20, 1878, giving a total registration of 605 pupils, 340 white and 265 colored. The superintendents after W. C. Rote were C. P. Estill, J. T. Hand, Jay E. McGuire, R. Stanbery, W. H. Flynne, E. W. Tarrant, Peyton Irving, Jr. The present incumbent is W. D. Notley.

To accommodate the ever-increasing attendance the present handsome, mission style, High School building was erected in 1907, at an approximate cost of \$50,000.00, and the Alamo building was constructed in 1912, with an expenditure of about \$11,000.00. These two structures are equipped with all modern conveniences. The attendance for the opening in September, 1915, was, white pupils, 600.

Brenham has one of the finest systems of public schools in Texas, and they are really the first to be established in the State. Superintendents of great ability and teachers of culture and refinement have labored intelligently and earnestly for their advancement. Among the men of superior education who have guided the destiny of these schools, W. D. Notley must be ranked with the best—in some respects he is the peer of his predecessors—for his methods are more modern, and he has a beautiful way of reaching the hearts, and touching the ambition of the boys and girls and arousing their interest in the school work.

The list of graduates with the dates of graduation is as follows (Those marked * are deceased) :

1877—Kate Allen, Offa Eddins and Robert Tarver.

1878—Eliza (Baker) Wessendorf of Fort Worth, Mary (Dashiell) McIntyre,* Mattie (Dashiell) Bryan of Abilene, Mary Tarver,* Tannie (Hynes) Ammons, Louis F. Ammons, Thomas Harris,* William Thompson of Dallas and James A. Wilkins.

:1879—Charles Grattan Dwyer, U. S. A., New York City; Rosa (Simon) Rubenstein of New Orleans, and Annie (Spencer) Cochran.*

1880—Julia A. Dashiell,* Eula (Williams) Krug, and Josie (Wood) Ray of Waco.

1881—Leanora McCluskey,* May (Williams) Pennington.

1882—Nettie (Pampell) Lochridge of Austin, and Kate (Robertson) Watson of Stone.

1883—No graduates reported.

1884—Emma Harris,* Nettie Testard.

1885—No graduates reported.

1886—Lucile Beaumont, Lizzie (Dwyer) Robertson of Crawford, Hannah (Simon) Folz of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Eugenia Gray, Lula Curry, Lula (Dunlap) Williams, R. J. Swearingen,* Allen Swearingen,* Travers Dashiell of Jewett, Charles Spann.*

1887—Callie (Hutchinson) Scott of San Antonio, Hettie (Harrison) Curry, Genevieve Muse, Dora Cleaves, Emma (Beauchamp) Nauwerck,* Fannie (Kennedy) Schenk of Oklahoma, Mallie (Hutchinson) Minor, Mamie Allison, Sudie Curry, Mamie Crosson, Ben Bassett, John Watson of Lockport, New York, and Henry Gleiss.

1888—Sadie McClung of Los Angeles, California; Lou Charske, Loula Cross, Olivia Bowers, Nettie (Estes) Fischer, Cora (Harrison) Levy of Oklahoma City, Ethel (Morris) Franklin, Janie (Hughes) Sallis, Hester (Abbot) Smith, Rosa Williams, Fred W. Martin and John Asa Wilkins of Houston.

1889—Emma Ahrenbeck, Jessie Cleaves, Kate (Estes) McAdam, Edna Kennedy of Mineral Wells, Annie Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Rouse of Houston, Annie (Vinson) Bettison, David Allen, Arthur E. Knolle, J. L. Neu and Hugh Lusk (certificate).

1890—Sophie Ahrenbeck, Sophie Bickler, Katie Carothers, Ophelia (Hutchinson) Schulz, Johnnie (Hughes) Burns of Caldwell, Elma Morris, Virginia Thomas of El Paso, Fred L. Amsler, Cal G. Botts, W. J. Bassett, K. P. Giesecke and Edwin J. Healy.

1891—Susie (Battaille) Schemwell, Fannie (Budd) Meyer of Cleburne, Annie Hill, Daisy Eldridge, Lillian Hoffmann, Grace Slater, Ellie (Pennington) McNeal, Ada Wallney,* Hettie (Wilkins) Garrett, Beulah (Burke) Cunningham of Ardmore, Oklahoma; Highland (Gee) Vardell of Dallas, Courtney (Williams) Styles of Wharton, E. C. Abbott, H. L. Garrett of Galveston, R. A. Harrison of Bryan, Henry Ray (certificate).

1892—Julia Harrison of New York City, Margaret (Bassett) Lamkin, Willie Burch, Estelle (Connell) Koye of Dallas, Jessie Cather, Zephyr (Crozier) Roos of Victoria, Stella Curry, Rosa (Haubelt) Lindemann of Houston, Sophie Heine, Nannie (Matchett) Crozier, Lillie (Wiebusch) Traeger,* Stella (Young) Knolle of Seguin, T. A. Low and William Thomas.

1893—Katie Griffin,* Ruby (Gardner) Robertson, Nannie (Botts) Dever of Waco, Daisy (Connell) Humphreys of Lyons, Rosamond Bowers, Tillie Zeiss, Delphine Byrnes of La Grange, Pauline (Dawson) Baumgart, Carrie Endel, Bershie (Hickey) Clonts, Lelia Hughes, Daisy (Johnson) Brauner of Beaumont, W. T. Tarrant, U. S. N.

1894—Helen (Miller) Bolton, Annie (Hughes) Kean of Cisco, Nellie Brennan, Bessie (Buster) Young of Jacksboro, Irene (Crozier) Youngkin of Galveston, Mabel Giddings of Austin, Fannie Hill, Beatrice (Hutchinson) Mead of Fort Worth, Beulah Kennedy, Corrie (Low) Morriss, Mary Munday, Hattie (Wilkins) Williams, Low Chappell, Lennie Campbell, Bruns Holland of Del Rio, Sam Rouse of Houston, Irving Townsend and Henry L. Williams of Beaumont.

1895—Bertha (Becker) Wilkins, Annette Ray, Lula (Thornhill) Harrison, Elsie (Tristram) Engelhardt, Addie Wiebusch, Bershie (Wilkins) Low, Lena (Pampell) Day, Clara Wilson of Dallas, Charles H. Carlisle, Jr., Bolling Eldridge, Ernest Young of Jacksboro, John P. Key of California, Rupert Eldridge.

1896—Sadie Harrison of New York, Lucile Tarrant, Fay Bowers, Melissa (Bowers) Hale, Lula (Felder) Cox,* Annie Haubelt, Sadie (McIntyre) Garrison of Plainview (certificate), Mary (Healy) Bates of Corsicana, Nelda Russi, Mamie Stein, Mary Tumlin, Frank H. Dever of Dallas, Albert L. Haynes and Hal C. Thomas of Arizona.

1897—Emma (Amsler) Koch, Kate Brennan, Ada H. (Becker) Carlisle, Mattie Giddings, Mollie White (Harrison) Astin of Bryan, Lelia Clay Robbins,* Edna Earle (Rouse) Fagg of Greenville, Bessie (Thornhill) Hughes, Fannie C. Thomas, Hattie (Tiemann) Schiller, Tooley (Williamson) Lusk, Robert W. Haynie of Abilene, Henry A. Luhn of Taylor, L. Tarver Wilkins,* Edwin C. Zurcher.

1898—Belle (Beauchamp) Gackenheimer, Annie Busse, Lizzie Eldred, Minnie Fowler, Mamie Glass, Lucy Hill, Mamie (Creekmore) Cather, Nettie (Grabner) Meerscheidt of San Antonio, Ettie (Bowers) Becker of Bellville, Daisy Burch, Julia (Epstein) Epstein of Atlanta, Georgia; Alita (Gardner) Vann, Erna Giesecke of Houston, Emma Robertson, Winifred Morriss, John Kirkland Harrison of Hous-

ton, Ravenal Luhn, Ernest A. Robbins of Houston, J. Lester Wroe of Austin, Harry Pennington of Houston, Lou (Jackson) Booth*, Louis Giddings, August Lindemann, Louis Rial, J. R. Williamson, Jr., Ralph Mudgett, Henry S. Thornhill and Mary Sallis.

1899—Mattie (Shepard) Amsler of Dallas, Selma (Tiemann) Dippel, Ella Werner, Nellie (Abbott) Wilkins, Hattie Mae Allcorn,* Mamie Haubelt, Willie Creekmore of St. Louis, Bessie (Eldridge) Gillespie of Houston, Flora Fowler, Bessie (Wilkins) Farley, Jerry J. Marek, Albert Giddings, Elsie (Garrett) Townes of Beaumont, Louise (Goodlett) Ellis of Temple, Loula (Healy) Fehrentz of Chicago, Annie Lemm, Lillian (Lindemann) Meyer of Sealy, Mary Liebrook, Rosa (Langhammer) Sanders of Somerville, Sadie Miller, Fannie Pace,* Katie Stein, Hugo Tautenhahn and George S. Wright.

1900—Annie Marie Affleck,* Addie Louise Clonts, Mary (Dever) Price of Georgetown, Elizabeth (Dobert) Schmid, Musadora Irby, Esther Lewis, Annie (Shepard) Winston of Smithville, Byron Couch Beauchamp, Louise Vlasta Wotipka, Netta Botts, Loula Hackworth, Mattie (Harrison) West of Uvalde, Annie (Hermann) Wheat of Galveston, Francis Haubelt, Selma Schramm, Thetis Clay (Thornhill) King of Dallas, Edward Luhn.

1901—Mabel (Carrington) Brown of Austin, Ione Childress, Bessie (Goodlet) Curry, Isabel Haring, Ida Mae Lindemann, Myrtle McFarland, Ida Pflughaupt, Jennie Tarrant, Lillian Carrington, Mary Childress, Maude Hardy, Annie Portia (Healy) Smith of Corsicana, Elise (Lockett) Williamson, Jonnie Mae (Pennington) Smither of Huntsville, Susan (Shepard) Wood of Houston, Erma (Tiemann) Somer, Edward Lewis Marek, Sarah Gross of New York City (certificate), Thomas Bowers and Henry Mueller.

1902—Bessie (Barber) Gilbert, Ella (Giesecke) Muery, Emily Hardy, Anna Mulhern, Leonora Tautenhahn, Mary Goldie Fink, Bessie Sloan, Lizzie (Irby) Blanks of Edna, Minnie (Sonnenberg) Dobert, Bozena Wotipka, Lena Susnitsky, Kleberg Langhammer, Rufus Nicholson of Houston, Thomas B. Botts, Frank Leo Minkwitz, Robert Lee Young.

1903—Aileen Brown, Esther Gross of New York City, Hattie (Parks) Stone, Lillian Quebe, Annie Houston Tarrant, Bessie Lee (Williamson) Moore of Houston, Marjorie (Harrison) Coale of Chicago, Louise (Langhammer) Hill of Somerville, Minnie Lee (Sloan) Bettis, Norma (Tiemann) Lehmann, William H. Campbell of Beaumont, Reynold Luhn of Taylor, O. A. Seward, Jr., of Beaumont, and Ernest Farmer of Beaumont.

1904—Velaska (Heinecke) Adams of La Grange, Kitty Buchanan, Mabel (Wright) Blake, Henrietta (Teague) Kanady, Lessie Meyer,* Mary Bielefeldt, Annie (Dawson) Becker, Kenneth E. Krug, Emil Marek of Galveston, Solomon Harrison Endel, U. S. N.; Thomas Buchanan, Forrest Bettis and Walter Minkwitz of Sugarland.

1905—Miladi (Haubelt) Seidel, Lena (Marek) Malina, Mamie (Searcy) Kleberg of Kingsville, Ethel (Tucker) Smith of Taylor, Millie Wotipka, Nettie Griffin, August Heinecke of Seguin, William J. Embrey, Clay Seward and Louise Giddings.

1906—Carolyn Heinecke, Dessie Lagle, Spencer Tarrant, Elsie Quebe, Mattie (Colbert) Wood of Granger, Benita Minkwitz of Richmond, Amelia (Hyman) Stubblefield of Houston, Winnie (Davis) Rogers, Irene Reynolds, Ludelia Wallace and Fred Heinecke.

1907—Bertha (Schuerenberg) DeWare, Nettie Mae (Ralston) Booth, Dora Seidelmann, Myrtle Matthews, Myra (Barnett) Krug, Esther Brewer, Adele Lindemann, Florence Stulken, Gertrude Hermann, Vera (Van Hutton) Stuckert, Emma Mueller, Jessie Dawson and Ernest Seelhorst.

1908—Florence (Seward) Denson, Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands; Minnie Lee Gehrman, Belle Hyman, Alfred Buchanan, Carl Niederauer, Robert Stuckert.

1909—Belle Hyman (post-graduate), Ella Boyce McCormick, Robert Stuckert (post-graduate), and Gerald Wagon of Cameron.

1910—Marion Barnett of Davis, Oklahoma; Alma Herbst and Eva Susnitsky.

1911—Dorothy Chisolm, Mamie Schmid, Allyne (Jaeggli) Thompson, Benita Hoffmann, Louise (Styles) Pier, Ira O. Pier, Julia Rankin, Robert P. Thompson, Henry Tucker and Hermann L. Zschappell.

1912—Oscar R. Hoffmann, Gus Fink, Bessie Hill Burnes, Flora Susnitsky and Ione Kenney.

1913—Will M. Giddings, Schuerenberg Zschappell, Marzee Thiel, Laura (Styles) Schmid, Emily (Sallis) Herbst, Della Niederauer, Blanche Beaumier, Mary Simmons, Mary Louise Williams.

1914—S. D. W. Low., Jr., Gustav Heinecke, Eugene Tie mann, Thelma Amsler, Ella Suter, Clarence Stuckert, Winona Prinzing of Victoria, Julia Wade, Pauline Sallis, Ethel Collins and Rosa Levine.

1915—Mattie Reeves Wood, Gladys Griffin, Ileana Beaumier, Tina Grebe, Mary Patterson, J. P. Buchanan, Jr., George Hoffmann, Rheinhardt Jahnke, Herbert Fischer and Ernest Schawe.

W. D. NOTLEY.

The present superintendent of the Brenham public schools is W. D. Notley. He was born in Lamar County, Texas, near the village of Brookston, where he received his early schooling under the excellent instruction of Prof. J. P. Cooper and wife. He was induced at the age of 11 to study for the profession of teaching. With that one great aim, he set about studying with a gladness, and a zeal and determination seldom found in a youth yet so young, to fulfill a mission which to him seemed greatest of all.

His schooling, extended over many years of hard study and diligent application, has assured his success as a school man. His education was received at Brookston High School, the North Texas State Normal, University of Chicago, and Columbia University, New York City.

His experience in teaching has extended over a period of twelve years, during which time he has served as teacher of rural schools, principal of ward and high schools, county superintendent and city superintendent. Mr. Notley came to his present position, the choice of seventy-three applicants, July 1, 1911.

During the four and one-half years he has been superintendent of the Brenham public schools he has proved himself a safe and sane leader and a man of broad visions. He immediately proved himself worthy of the esteem and confidence of his board of trustees, who gave him freedom in the choice of his co-workers, to the extent that Brenham today has one among the strongest faculties in the South for her public schools.

The schools have improved in thoroughness, and continue to grow in the esteem of the leading universities and colleges, where the Brenham students attend in increasing numbers. The curriculum has been widened, admitting of a broad elective system in the selection of studies. The community, too, has been committed to a broad educational policy, advocating a balance of practical and cultural subjects. Manual training, agriculture, domestic science, domestic art, music and drawing, have been added to the curriculum along with foreign language, English, mathematics, history and science. Increasing attention is being given to physical education also, a physical director having been recently appointed.

Student life has been greatly enhanced, by means of athletic associations, glee clubs, literary societies and Boy Scout and Camp Fire organizations.

Public opinion and school and community co-operation have been secured through the Brenham Home and School



W. D. NOTLEY

Association, now with a membership of more than 200. A lecture course and a monthly school social have been instituted, thus supplying pleasure, and giving the public contact with brilliant minds.

For upwards of forty years learned men have superintended the Brenham public schools, and their growth has been steady and sure. The administration of the present superintendent has been an era of wonderful progress, the enrollment has increased, the work of the teachers and student body has been very gratifying, and the schools have risen to their highest degree of excellence. These great improvements are the results of the well directed efforts of the man at the head. He is a brilliant scholar, has quick and generous sensibilities and most gentlemanly characteristics; is thoroughly familiar with all modern school methods; and, as an educator, stands in the foremost place among the very best superintendents in Texas.

Mr. Notley is true to his youthful ideals, and the ambition which urged the 11-year-old boy to become a teacher is fully realized in the man, for he is devoting his life to the education of children. In the wide field of educational endeavor he faithfully guides the student-laborers; he teaches the little people to sow the tiny seeds of knowledge; he encourages those older grown in the cultivation of the young and tender plants of learning, and when there is full fruition of the hopes of the toilers, he rejoices in the educational harvest of the youthful men and women.

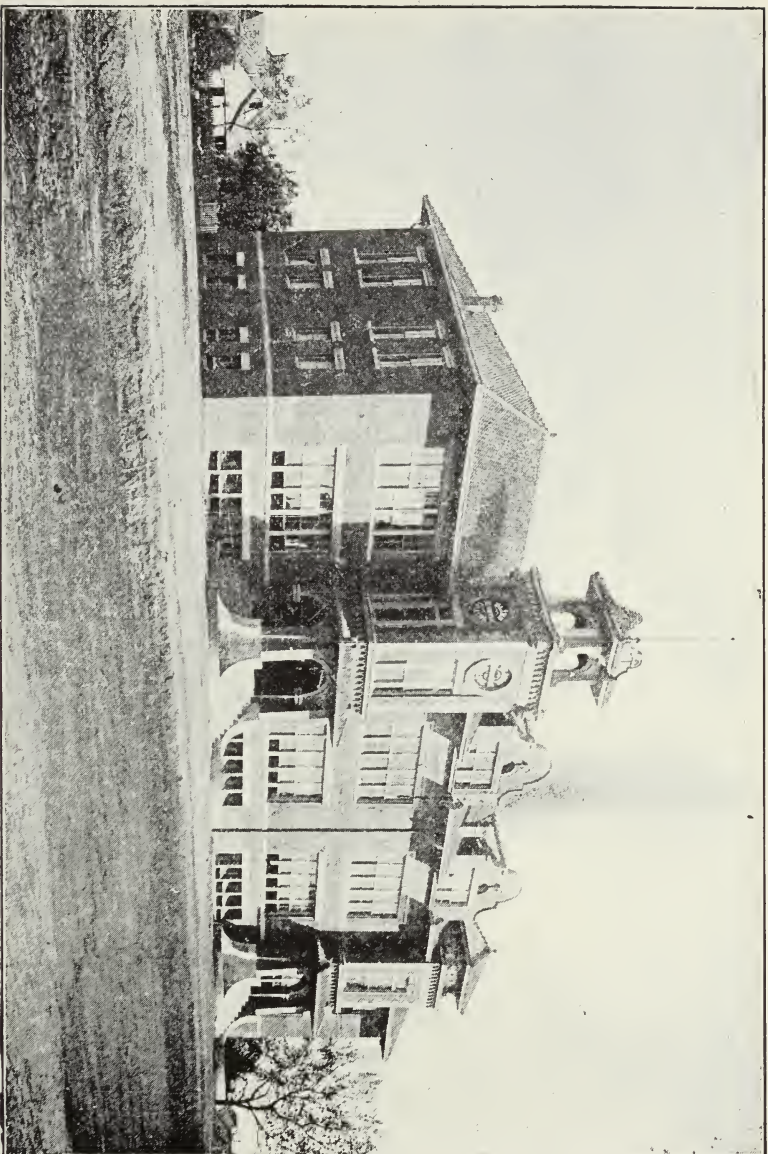
OTHER SCHOOLS.

J. R. Hollmey taught an excellent private school for a number of years. Miss Mary Rial founded the "Mary Rial High School," which grew and flourished during the closing years of the last century. The German-American Institute was established and successfully conducted for ten years by C. Klaerner.

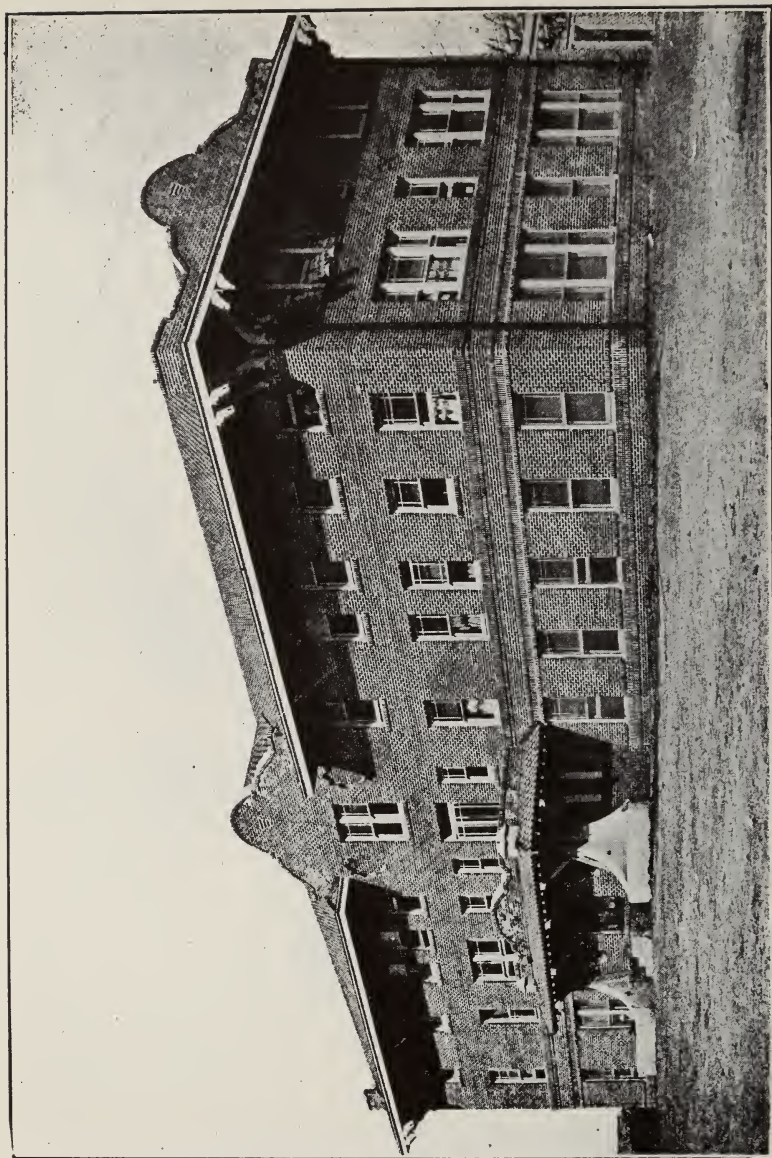
The Lutheran College, originally the Phillip Bickler school, now at Seguin, was located in Brenham for a short while. In 1909 the Dominican Sisters came from Galveston and opened the Sacred Heart Convent in the old public school building which had been purchased from the city authorities, and from the beginning this educational venture has been a success.

BLINN MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

Beautiful Blinn Memorial College, situated on one of the highest hills in Brenham, is the especial pride of Brenhamites. This fine educational institution for boys and girls had its beginning at the annual session of the German Confer-



BLINN MEMORIAL COLLEGE



GIRLS' DORMITORY—BLINN MEMORIAL COLLEGE

ence of the Methodist Church, held in Seguin November 30 to December 4, 1882, when Rev. Carl Urbantke was authorized to establish a school in this city. Its first session began in March, 1883, and its first name, Mission Institute, suggested its purpose of training young men for the ministry. However, other demands made upon the school led to the addition of other departments, until now it offers instruction in all the branches usually taught in schools and business colleges. The first enrollment was three students, and from this small number the enrollment has gradually increased until there are over 200 boys and girls from various places in Texas in attendance.

In March, 1887, the Rev. Christian Blinn, of New York, visited the school. Before he left he had interested the citizens of Brenham in the little school, had built a two-story building now used as a boys' dormitory, paid the salary of an additional teacher, and contributed to the endowment. The total amount contributed by Mr. Blinn and his family is \$20,000. It was in gratitude for these gifts that the Conference in 1889 changed the name to Blinn Memorial College.

The school at present owns property and endowment valued conservatively at \$175,000. The Main Building and the Girls' Dormitory are each valued at \$30,000. It has seven teachers—six men and one lady. It gives instruction in the following courses: Preparatory, Academic, Commercial, Stenographic, Theological, Music, Voice. It is affiliated with the State University. Its graduates and former students have an enviable reputation for efficiency in various walks of life.

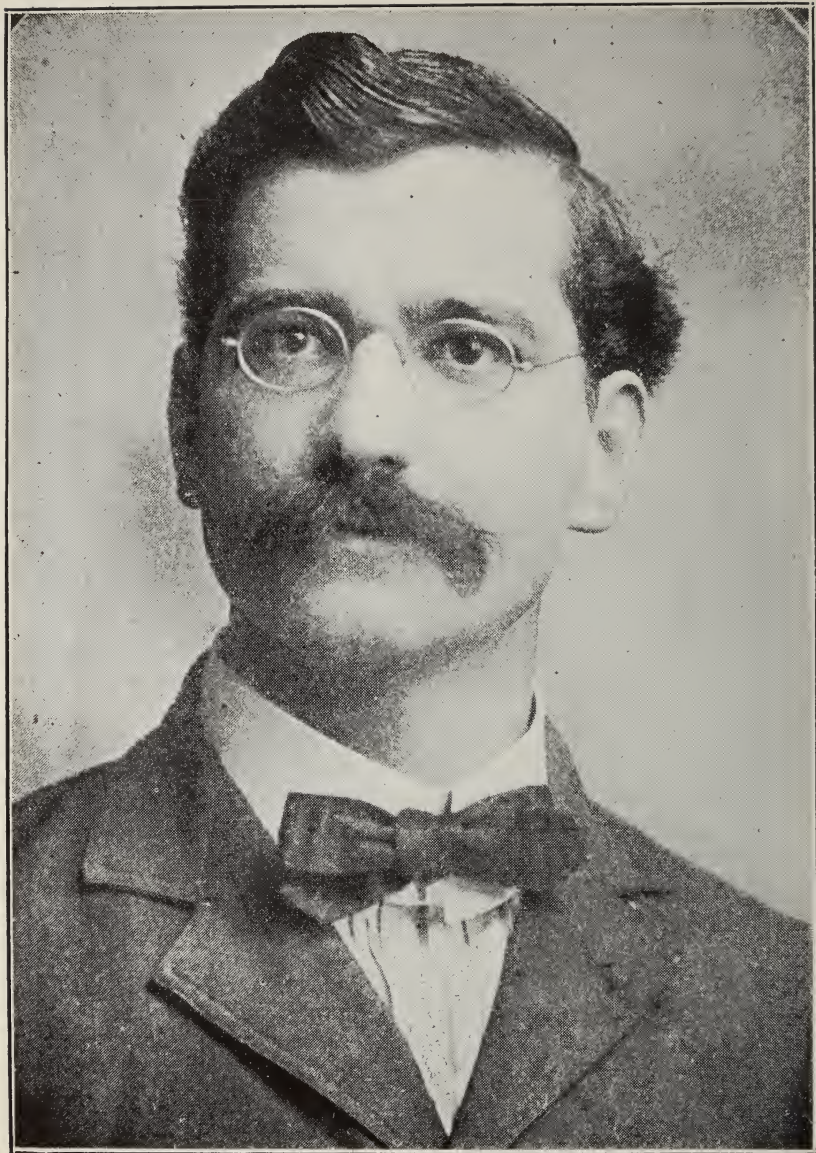
The citizens of Brenham have always looked with pride upon its progress and have contributed liberally to the funds for the purchase of grounds and the erection of buildings.

Its present president is J. L. Neu; treasurer, Rev. W. A. Moers, and financial agent, Rev. J. Streit.

JACOB LORENZ NEU.

Jacob Lorenz Neu was born in Brenham in 1873. He received his elementary education in private schools and is a graduate of the Brenham High School of the class of '89. He holds the B. A. degree from the State University and has attended the theological classes in Blinn Memorial College for a term and the summer sessions of Baylor University and of the Summer School of the South.

His teaching experience began with public school work. In 1896 he was elected a teacher in Blinn Memorial College, being in charge of the Preparatory classes. Later he was put in charge of the English Department. He is also inter-



J. L. NEU

ested in the study of American History, especially of Texas history, and is librarian of the school.

For nineteen years J. L. Neu has been connected with Blinn Memorial College, serving for the past six years as the capable and efficient president. Under his careful guidance the school has grown and prospered until it is on an equal footing with the best colleges in the State. He is an ideal educator, scholarly, hard-working, courageous, honest and sincere, and is devoted to his profession from the love of it. One of the supreme elements of his character is force, and this, added to earnestness, is the secret of his success in the management of the affairs of Blinn Memorial College.

RELIGION.

When the liberty loving men came to settle Texas they brought their Bibles with them, and they came with the full determination of worshiping God according to their own consciences.

METHODIST CHURCH.

Methodism was established in Brenham in 1844, in the "Hickory Grove" school house, under the leadership of J. D. Giddings. Some of the names on the first church roll were J. D. Giddings, Mrs. A. M. Giddings, Mrs. Arabella Harrington, John Elgin, Mrs. Elgin, Prosper Hope, James Clemmons, John G. Heffington, E. D. Tarver, Rev. John W. Kenney and R. B. Wells. A Sunday School was organized, and J. D. Giddings was the first superintendent. On July 1, 1848, the church purchased one acre of ground where the Christian Church now stands, from Jesse Farral, for a consideration of \$100.00. It took time to build the church, as the cedar logs had to be felled and hauled, and sawed with a whip-saw. All the timbers, weatherboarding and ceiling were hewn, sawed and planed by hand, and it was in 1851 or 1852 before the sacred edifice was finally completed. It was 30 by 50 feet, had two doors in front, three glass windows on each side and two in the north end. The pulpit was high and had to be reached by two or three steps; it was boarded round, so that when the preacher sat down he was almost out of sight of his congregation. A spire and a sweet-toned bell completed this house of worship. Robert Alexander, B. H. Peel, John W. Kenney, filled regular appointments, and Rev. Lewis was the local pastor. J. D. Giddings was the superintendent of the Sunday School from 1844 to 1878, the year of his death. The Texas Conference was held in Brenham in 1868, and F. C. Wilkes was the local pastor at the time. He was succeeded by

F. A. Mood and B. D. Dashiell. Giddings Memorial Methodist Church, so named in memory of J. D. Giddings, was erected in 1879, when F. A. Mitchell was pastor. The present pastor is Ernest G. Cooke. The presiding elder of the Brenham district is S. W. Thomas.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

H. N. Pierce of New York organized St. Peter's Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church prior to November 1, 1848. He received a pledge, from Trinity Church of New York, of \$2,000 for an Episcopal Church building in Brenham, conditioned on the fact that the citizens would raise \$2,000.00 more. The public spirited citizens gave the requisite amount. H. N. Pierce was the first rector. He afterwards became Bishop of Arkansas. The second rector was L. P. Rucker. The old church building of brick gave way in 1901 to the present church. The lot was bought May 6, 1852, from A. G. Compton, for a consideration of \$1,100.00. For the past eleven years S. Moylan Bird has served this church faithfully and well as rector.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Interest in the Baptist Church was aroused in November, 1848, by Rufus C. Burleson, who held a very successful revival in the "Hickory Grove" school house. Many people joined the church, but until 1851 the Brenham Baptists were known as "an arm" of the Mill Creek Baptist Church. In December of that year the First Baptist Church of Brenham was organized, and Rufus C. Burleson preached the first sermon. Among the early preachers who filled appointments were Z. N. Morrell, William Melton Tryon, Elder Noah T. Byars and Elder Hosea Garrett. The lot upon which the present church stands was acquired by purchase from a free negro named "Enos"—the price was \$25.00. The original church was built in 1852 on this lot, and nothing but cedar was used in its construction. In 1884 a new church was erected, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Myra Graves. The old cedar edifice was sold to James A. Wilkins for \$100.00. W. R. Brown is the pastor at the present time.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church was organized in 1890 by G. Langner, who served as its pastor until 1913, when he resigned. The first church building was constructed in 1891, but was demolished by the 1900 storm, and the present edifice was built immediately afterwards. Edward A. Sagabiel, the present pastor, organized the first Luther League in Texas

in Brenham in 1913. This league has a membership of about 175.

GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH.

Carl Urbantke organized the German Methodist Church in 1873 and was its first pastor, in which capacity he served until his death about 1909. He assisted in the construction of the first church building, which was built by F. B. Wiebusch, one of the most devout members. In 1913 a new church was erected, when W. A. Moers was the pastor. Today A. A. Leifeste has charge of this church.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Christian Church was established during the '80s, and the first services were held in the old church which was bought from the Methodists and was situated upon the lot where is standing the present church. The burning in 1884 of the building necessitated the construction of the new sacred edifice. For a long term of years A. D. Milroy has been doing a wonderful work for the Master in this religious organization.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In 1870, Bishop N. A. Gallagher of Galveston purchased the ground upon which is located St. Mary's Catholic Church; and it was about this year that the church was organized and a church building erected. Some years ago a new church was built. Father M. J. Tabor is in charge at present. For over forty-five years Mrs. Mary Dwyer Ross has been one of the most active and influential members.

The German Baptist Church was established many years ago. Rev. Voigt is the pastor.

Through the instrumentality of Mrs. J. F. Schramm the Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized in Brenham. She is one of the most active and faithful members. Several years ago the church was erected in South Brenham.

THE GIDDINGS'

No one family in the history of Texas, from the time it was under Mexican rule to the present period, has planted a higher standard of excellence than that raised and maintained by the Giddings; and no one family in Washington County has been more prominent and influential. Giles A. Giddings, the first of six illustrious brothers, the patriot and soldier, who was mortally wounded at San Jacinto, arrived in Texas in 1835. J. D. Giddings, the Texas Veteran, came in 1838. He was followed in 1848 by James J. Giddings, the civil engineer, and George H. Giddings, the Confederate Colonel. The year 1852 marked the advent of D. C. Giddings, the Confederate lieutenant colonel, the congressman and banker; and Frank Giddings, the physician and surgeon. The Giddings of today is D. C., who is at the head of the vast estate and the private bank of Giddings & Giddings. He is a worthy representative of his distinguished ancestors; and, when his useful life is ended, he will be succeeded by his young son, D. C. Giddings, Jr., in whom the leading characteristics of the bold and enterprising Giddings are very pronounced.

Brenham owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to J. D. Giddings, his brother, D. C. Giddings, and son, D. C. Giddings; for in every epoch-making event during the past seventy-one years they have been central figures.

JABEZ DEMMING GIDDINGS.

Many bright men helped to form, inaugurate and wield the affairs of Brenham in the constructive period of its history; but to J. D. Giddings, more than to any other man, must be given the credit of having founded the City of Brenham.

Primarily, it owes its very existence to him; for it was through his efforts that it became the county seat in 1844. His experience as a teacher guided him in the promotion of Brenham's educational interests. He helped the cause of religion by assisting in the establishment of Methodism. With the aid of his brother, D. C. Giddings, he virtually built the Washington County Railroad. Upon his advice Brenham was incorporated. He was a member of the legislature in the reconstruction days, and introduced measures that were beneficial to Brenham. In 1866, in copart-



J. H. Gillingham

nership with D. C. Giddings, he established the first bank. He aided in the removal of the Federal soldiers from Camp-town. He was a leading lawyer.

J. D. Giddings was born in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania; James Giddings and Lucy Demming Giddings were his parents. His father first entered the merchant marine, and at 21 was a captain with the full charge of a cargo. A shipwreck off the Carolina coast destroyed the labor of a lifetime. He abandoned the sea and went into the wilderness of Western Pennsylvania and established a farm. His mother was a beautiful character, and her life was spent in rearing her sons and training them to walk in the paths of honor and virtue. She laid the foundations of the excellent educations of her children.

In the spring of 1838, J. D. Giddings came to Texas, seeking information about his brother, Giles A. Giddings, who died from wounds received at the battle of San Jacinto. Giles A. Giddings, being a civil engineer, came to Texas in 1835, to survey a land grant for the purpose of establishing a colony. Twelve days before Sam Houston met Santa Anna his patriotism caused him to abandon the surveying and Indian fighting, in which he was then engaged, and enlist in Company A, Captain William Woods commanding, of the First Regiment of Texas Volunteers, of which Edward Burleson was colonel. The night before the engagement at San Jacinto Giles A. Giddings wrote his parents a loving letter indicative of sublime courage and an inborn love of liberty. This valuable document reads as follows:

Texas, Four Miles from Head-quarters.

April 10, 1836.

Dear Parents:—Since I last wrote you I have been engaged in arranging an expedition against the Indians, who have committed many depredations against the frontier. On my return to the settlements, I learned that our country was again invaded by a merciless horde of Mexicans, who were waging a war of extermination against the inhabitants. A call was made for all friends of humanity to rise in arms and resist the foe. Men were panic-stricken and fled, leaving their all behind them. I could not reconcile it to my feelings to leave Texas without an effort to save it. Accordingly, I bent my course for the army and arrived last evening at this place. I shall enter camp this morning as a volunteer. The army, commanded by Gen. Houston, is lying on the west side of the Brazos, 20 miles from San Fillippe. The enemy is in that place waiting an attack. It is reported Houston will attack them in the

morning. What will be the result, or the fate of Texas, is hid in the bowels of futurity. Yet, I think we are engaged in the cause of justice, and hope the God of battles will protect us. The enemy's course has been the most bloody that has ever been recorded on the page of history. Our garrison at San Antonio was taken and massacred; so another detachment of 700, commanded by Col. Fannin, and posted at La Bahia, after surrendering prisoners of war, were led out and shot down like bears. Only one escaped to tell their melancholy fate. In their course they show no quarter to age, sex or condition—all are massacred without mercy. If such conduct is not sufficient to arouse the patriotic feelings of the sons of liberty, I know not what will. I was born in a land of freedom, and taught to lisp the name of liberty with my infant tongue, and rather than be driven out of the country or submit to be a slave, I will leave my bones to bleach on the plains of Texas. If we succeed in subduing the enemy and establishing a free and independent government, we shall have the finest country the sun ever shone upon, and if we fail we shall have the satisfaction of dying fighting for the rights of man. I know not that I shall have an opportunity of writing to you in some time, but shall do so as often as is convenient. Be not alarmed about my safety. I am no better, and my life no dearer, than those who gained the liberty you enjoy. If I fail you will have the satisfaction that your son died fighting for the rights of man. Our strength in the field is about 1,500. The enemy is reported 4,000 strong; a fearful odds, you will say; but what can mercenary hirelings do against the sons of liberty?

Before this reaches you the fate of Texas will be known. I will endeavor to acquaint you as soon as possible. I am well and in good spirits, and as unconcerned as if going to a raising. The same Being who has hitherto protected my life can with equal ease ward off the balls of the enemy. My company is waiting, and I must draw to a close, and bid you farewell, perhaps forever. More than a year has elapsed since I saw you, yet the thoughts of friends and home are fresh in my memory, and their remembrance yet lives in my affections and will light a secret joy to my heart till it shall cease to beat. Long has it been since I have heard from you. How often do I think of home and wish to be there. The thought of that sacred spot haunts my night-watches. How often, when sleep has taken possession of my faculties, am I transported there, and for a short time enjoy all the pleasures of home; but the delusion is soon over, and the morning returns and I find my situation the same. Dear friends, if I see you no more,

remember Giles still loves you. Give my love to my sisters, brothers, friends and neighbors. I would write more if time would permit, but its fleeting steps wait for none. You need not write to me, as I do not know where I shall be. With sentiments of sincere respect I bid you farewell.

Your affectionate son,

G. A. GIDDINGS.

J. D. Giddings' first vocation in Washington County was that of teaching. He was considered a very fine educator. He taught school near Independence, in a log house with a puncheon floor, and numbered among his pupils grown men and women. Before opening school he directed the building of the school house, and was assisted by a few of the students, who helped him operate the whip-saw with which the cedar logs were prepared.

The love of adventure and hunting caused this pioneer to make many excursions into the wilds of the forests. During 1839, while on an expedition of this kind, between Cummings Creek and Ruttersville, he and his companion were chased by Indians and narrowly escaped with their lives.

When volunteers were called for in 1843 to avenge the raids of Vasquez and Woll, and to rescue prisoners held in Mexico, he promptly enlisted in Alexander Somervell's army, and remained until the disbanding of the majority of the soldiers, thus escaping the horrors of the Mier Expedition.

When Congress ordered an election in 1844, for the establishment of a permanent seat of justice for Washington County, J. D. Giddings was vitally interested in the success of Brenham. He traveled night and day, and made speeches in every town and settlement, with the gratifying result that Brenham was elected. The people of the time ascribed Brenham's success to the untiring labors of J. D. Giddings. He cast his lot, heart and soul, with the infant town, and formulated plans for its upbuilding. Realizing that religion was the foundation of good citizenship, his first thought was the establishment of a church; and he interested the good men and women in this laudable undertaking, to the end that Rev. Robert Alexander responded to an appeal, and the Methodist Church was organized in 1844 in the Hickory Grove school house. A Sunday School was started, and J. D. Giddings was the first superintendent, serving in this capacity until he died. Methodism in Brenham for the first 37 years is closely interwoven with the life of this devout Christian.

When Graham Lodge, A. F. & A. M., was organized, this good man became a charter member. His religion enabled him to fully appreciate the sublime beauties of the Masonic ritual, and at different times he held the highest offices in the three grand divisions of Masonry. In 1848, when the Masons took charge of the Hickory Grove School, he was a potent factor in the building of the Masonic Academy and in the introduction of new methods of teaching.

Being sensible of the beneficial effects of railroads, and assisted by his brother, D. C. Giddings, he organized the "Washington County Railroad Company," for the purpose of building a railroad. As promoters of the second railroad to be built in Texas, these patriotic brothers displayed ability, energy and courage in surmounting the difficulties with which they were confronted. To prevent the failure of the enterprise they virtually built the road themselves. It ran from Brenham to Hempstead, a distance of 21 miles. This line was but a short one, yet its construction during these pioneer days elevated the builders to the highest plane of business capacity, and laid the foundation for Brenham's commercial importance.

Following his policy of advocating every measure conducive to the improvement of his home town, J. D. Giddings suggested that Brenham be incorporated, and an election for this purpose was held May 29, 1858, duly incorporating the city.

In 1866, when problems of vital interest to the peace and happiness of the people of Texas came up for solution in the first legislature to assemble during the reconstruction period, this statesman, as representative from Washington County, served on many important committees, and was chairman of the judiciary committee. At the close of his term of service he was offered other political honors, which he declined.

Commercial conditions in 1866 made the establishment of a bank a necessity, and J. D. & D. C. Giddings founded the first financial institution of Washington County, under the firm name of Giddings & Giddings. J. D. Giddings was the senior member of the firm.

The encampment of the Federal soldiers at Camptown having become a trouble and annoyance to the citizens, J. D. Giddings, with his brother, D. C. Giddings, was instrumental in having these objectionable soldiers removed in 1869.

In 1844 J. D. Giddings was united in marriage to Miss Ann M. Tarver, daughter of Edmund T. Tarver, a prom-

inent farmer who had moved to the Republic of Texas, in 1841, from Tennessee. Of this union there are only two children living, Mrs. Heber Stone and Charles Giddings. Mrs. Stone's children are Giddings, Heber, Albert, Mary, the wife of R. E. Nicholson, and Louise. At J. D. Giddings' home, a two-story residence constructed of cedar, in North Brenham, the latch string was ever on the outside; and the poor, way-worn traveler, and the famous men and women of Texas, were welcomed alike, with true Southern hospitality. A few years prior to his death, he built the palatial country residence one mile south of the city. The fall of 1844 marked the building of his law office, which was constructed of logs on the spot where now stands the brick building owned by Charles Giddings. Though numbering among his competitors some of the brightest minds in Texas, he achieved signal success as a lawyer. He was a great student, a lifelong hard worker, and an exhaustive speaker, being always prepared. With strict integrity and fidelity to the cause of his clients, he soon had a greater law practice than he could manage, so in 1852 he became associated with his brother, D. C. Giddings; and for many years they were among the most prominent and influential practitioners in the State.

Giddings, the county seat of Lee County, was so named in honor of J. D. Giddings. The Giddings Memorial Methodist Church is a monument to his memory, and tells silently and eloquently of the work he did to advance the cause of Christ.

While he was a teacher of rare attainments, a Texas Veteran of unquestioned bravery, a lawyer of great brilliance, and a business man of sound judgment, it was as a devout Christian that the character of J. D. Giddings shines with great splendor. Into his daily life he carried religion, and in dealing with his fellow men justice was tempered with mercy; for always he followed the lead of the Man of Galilee, who said, "Love ye one another." At the time of his death, which occurred June 25, 1878, following injuries sustained by a fall from his buggy, few citizens in this section of Texas were more beloved and certainly none had truer friends than this noble character. The highest tribute that can be paid a good man when he enters into everlasting rest is to say that he lived and died a Christian.

COL. D. C. GIDDINGS.

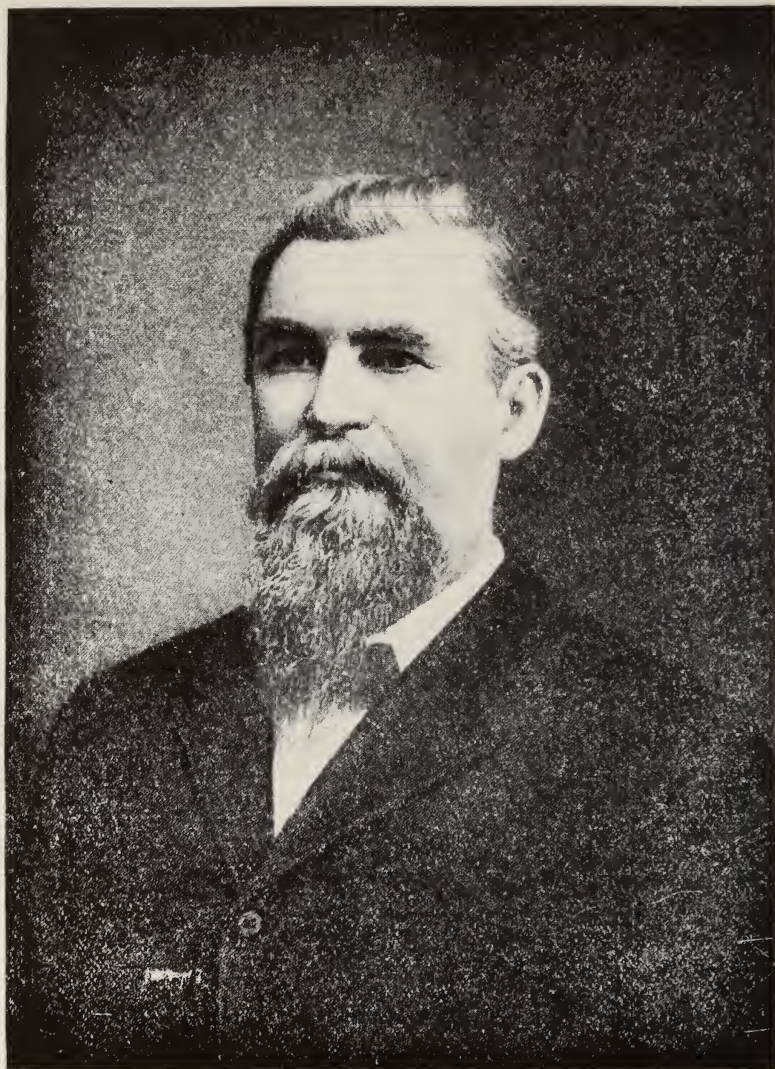
Even in a family like the Giddings, where every son is distinguished, it usually follows that one achieves more renown than all the others. D. C. Giddings lived and breathed in an Alpine atmosphere, where his lofty ideals,

brilliant intellect and rugged personality towered above the majority of his contemporaries. He never ceased to call to the weary travelers in the dark valleys below, and encourage them likewise to climb the bright mountain heights where bloomed the edelweiss flowers of faith, and hope, and love.

In the same country farm house in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, where his brothers first saw the light of day, D. C. Giddings, the youngest son of James and Lucy Demming Giddings, was born, July 18, 1827. As one by one his older brothers received their educations and attained their majorities they left the parental roof to make their homes in Texas, the new country whose wonderful resources had been so much exploited. Letters received from them fired the ambitious soul of the younger brother, and the lure of the great, throbbing, pulsating world urged him on, and impelled him to seek a more liberal education. He taught rural schools to earn the money with which to defray expenses, and at the early age of twenty years became a civil engineer for a railroad, and three years later he was found reading law in the office of Earl Wheeler, one of the most prominent Pennsylvania lawyers, whose home was in Honesdale.

Fully equipped, both mentally and physically, for the battle of life, D. C. Giddings arrived in Brenham in 1852, and went at once into the law office of his brother, J. D. Giddings. So well informed was he upon the vital questions of the times, and upon the salient points of law, that he soon ranked as a leading citizen and influential lawyer.

When the war clouds gathered in '61, D. C. Giddings, being a conservative, opposed the secession of Texas, believing that Southern rights could best be served through the Union; but when the Lone Star State joined the Confederacy, he went, heart and soul, with his adopted State, and immediately entered the 21st Texas Cavalry as a private. He was soon elected captain, and shortly afterwards lieutenant colonel. Owing to the absence of Carter, the superior officer, he was virtually colonel, and commanded the regiment in all of its engagements in the trans-Mississippi department. While on a scouting expedition near Helena, Arkansas, he was taken prisoner and sent to St. Louis, after a fight in which he, with 60 of his men, had killed, wounded or captured 98 of the enemy. At the expiration of six weeks he was exchanged and rejoined his command in time to be with Marmaduke when he made his famous raid into Missouri. He also participated in most of the battles in the Louisiana campaign. Through the four years' strife, and as long as he lived, his men



W. L. G. G. G.

honored and loved him, and those above him in military circles admired and respected him. The following official order from General Wharton pays tribute to the talented officer and heroic soldier, who was as brave as a lion:

“Headquarters Wharton’s Cavalry Corps,

“In the Field, May 24, 1864.

“General Order No. 8.

“The Major General Commanding takes pleasure in calling the attention of the troops under his command to the gallant conduct of Lt. Col. D. C. Giddings, and four companies of the Twenty-first Texas Cavalry, under his command, on the 21st April, 1864, two miles this side of Cloutierville, La.

“On this occasion Lt. Col. Giddings, with these four companies, made a most gallant charge against the enemy, greatly superior to him in number and strongly posted behind fences and houses, driving them from their positions and holding it until reinforcements were sent him. Not only on this, but on several other occasions, has the chivalry and daring of Lt. Col. Giddings been personally marked with pleasure by the Major General Commanding.

“By order of

(Signed) “Maj. Gen’l Jno. A. Wharton.

“B. H. Davis, A. A. A. Gen’l.

“Official. Cowles A. A. A. G.”

There is a massive bronze tablet in the museum of the United Daughters of the Confederacy at Austin, which pays tribute to this daring Confederate soldier, and the inscription reads as follows: “Erected by Brenham Tom Green Chapter, U. D. C., in loving memory of D. C. Giddings, Lieutenant Colonel, 21st Texas Cavalry. A brave soldier, loyal citizen and faithful public officer.”

At the close of the terrible war, D. C. Giddings, with the energy and fortitude of a dauntless young man, began life anew in Brenham, resuming the practice of law, and bending his best efforts to the improvement of demoralized conditions, and to the upbuilding of his home town. He was elected in 1866 and served as a member of the State Constitutional Convention, and was known as one of the most aggressive and influential men of Texas during the reconstruction period. The democratic nomination for Congress was tendered him at the Houston convention in 1870, and in view of the power of the republican party and its black cohorts, and the popularity of Gen. William T. Clark, the carpet-bag nominee, his election was deemed well nigh impossible. It was necessary for some patriot to break the

republican rule; and, as D. C. Giddings was made of stern material and feared no living thing, not even assassins, he very promptly, in a buggy, canvassed the entire district, comprising then nearly one-quarter of the State, and in forty days delivered sixty rousing speeches. This was truly a remarkable record in oratory and traveling, as railroads were few, and the swift locomotion afforded by automobiles was unknown. A negro company of the "Davis police" often preceded the speaker, and daily threatened to arrest and place him in irons. His scathing arraignment of the administration of Governor E. J. Davis, however, rallied the good people to his cause, and he was victorious by a good majority, notwithstanding which the certificate of election was given to Clark. Col. Giddings contested for the seat before the national House of Representatives, and so eloquently and earnestly did he plead the cause of his constituents that he was seated by a unanimous vote—an unusual occurrence, as it was a republican body of men. This first fight against republican misrule virtually terminated their authority in Texas. Of his services in Congress it has been said: "Col. Giddings was one of a conspicuous group of Southern men whose sturdy bravery and tactful resistance against the overwhelming reconstruction forces defended the South from yet greater evils than those which did befall. The seat of government at Washington at that time was the source of the greatest evils which the defeated South would yet experience, and in staying the ruthless and arrogant power of a Northern Congress, Col. Giddings and his associates earned a meed of lasting renown."

During the war, in order to secure a supply of arms and ammunition, Texas sent \$300,000.00 worth of United States bonds to Europe to be sold. Part of these securities were disposed of, and the proceeds invested in war supplies; but when the fall of the Confederacy came, some bonds and money not expended were on deposit with the bankers. The United States refused payment of the interest on the bonds that had been sold, and the holder of the bonds attached the unsold bonds and enjoined the bankers against paying the money on deposit to the State of Texas. Governor Coke appointed the firm of J. D. & D. C. Giddings as agents for Texas, and after great labor, and a trip to Europe, Col. D. C. Giddings brought back and turned into the treasury \$339,000.00.

When the Brenham Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1867, ostensibly for protection against fire, but in reality as a military company to suppress the lawlessness of the Federal soldiers then camped at Camptown,

Col. Giddings was elected chief; and on May 28, 1867, upon the establishment of the Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 he was chosen foreman; and until the day of his death the department had in him a staunch and true friend.

As an appreciation of the great value of education, he was the first man to advocate the founding of the Brenham Public Schools, in 1875; and no enthusiast gave the measure more hearty co-operation than he. His wisdom and sagacity as a member of the board of trustees at different times helped to place the schools on a firm foundation.

Duties at the bank of Giddings & Giddings, where business was constantly on the increase, made its absolutely necessary in 1875 for Col. Giddings to give up the active practice of law—the profession to which he was devoted, and which he so well adorned; and this decision removed from the South Texas bar one of its ablest practitioners and brightest legal minds. J. D. Giddings died in 1878, thus placing the entire responsibility upon D. C. Giddings; and in 1884 he bought the interest of his brother's heirs and became sole proprietor. A few months later he admitted his son, DeWitt Clinton Giddings, to copartnership. For 37 years, beginning with 1866, the date of the establishment of this banking house, Col. Giddings labored early and late, and was rewarded long before his death with the gratifying knowledge that the bank of Giddings & Giddings was one of the safest and strongest financial institutions in all Texas. When Col. Giddings died, his will provided for the continuance of the bank under the management of his son, D. C. Giddings.

In spite of the quarantine ordinance which D. C. Giddings submitted to the city council, and which was passed August 13, 1867, the yellow fever invaded Brenham. No nobler example of heroism may be found among the annals of men than that given by this good citizen, when he faced danger and death, and gently, and unselfishly ministered to the sufferers. By day and night for three months he nursed the ill and dying, allowing himself scant rest, and so sad were the conditions and so great the death rate, that Col. Giddings often superintended the interments in the graves at the old Masonic Cemetery, which he had helped the colored laborers to excavate; and sometimes he was the sole mourner, for yellow fever was in every home, and few people were able to attend funerals.

Miss Malinda C. Lusk and D. C. Giddings were united in marriage in Brenham in 1860, and they began house-keeping on the spot where now stands the Giddings home. Mrs. Giddings was the daughter of Samuel C. Lusk, a Revolutionary soldier, and was born near Independence in

1836, just after the battle of San Jacinto had been fought. She was a singularly beautiful character in every respect, and was very prominent in the social, educational, and religious life of Brenham. Being gifted with a lyric soprano voice of wonderful range and volume, she was naturally the leader in musical circles, and in the Baptist Church choir, for every entertainment of note, and for the pleasure of her friends, she sang divinely. The poor and needy found in her a true friend, and when she died there was universal grief.

The death of his beloved wife was the greatest sorrow that came to Col. Giddings; but with his usual courage and fortitude he faced this irreparable loss. He devoted the remainder of his life to rearing his three motherless children, D. C. Giddings, Jr., Mary Belle and Lillian. Even after his niece, Mrs. Foote, and her daughter, Miss Frankie A. Foote, upon his invitation, had taken charge of his household, he never ceased to discharge the duties of both father and mother; and at no time during his career was he too busy to listen to the appeals, or to fulfill the wishes of the little ones that were so near and dear to his great heart. The Giddings home became a social center for small children, with Col. Giddings as chief entertainer and character-builder, and they always found the beautiful side of his rugged nature—for he loved them and they loved him. Often in the evenings he told stories to his children and their little playmates; and many a moral lesson did he teach with some interesting account of his travels, or some finely pointed talk on the principles of right-living.

In 1903 Col. Giddings' health failed, and the fine gray head sank lower as the weeks went by, and the kindly eyes began to look upon the world with lessening interest from day to day; and at the last, when death touched the eyelids down, the classic face took on the philosopher's welcoming smile. Under his own roof and surrounded by those who knew him best and loved him most, he met his fate like the brave soldier that he was. From every viewpoint, as a good citizen, renowned lawyer, gallant Confederate soldier, peerless statesman and able congressman, and as a banker of strict integrity and an honest man, Col. Giddings was decidedly one of the most eminent men of Texas.

RESOLUTIONS OF BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY ON THE DEATH OF COL. D. C. GIDDINGS.

Judge C. C. Garrett presented and read the following report of the committee:

Mr. President: The committee appointed at a meeting of the Bar Association of Washington County to prepare

resolutions concerning the death of the Honorable D. C. Giddings submit the following:

DeWitt Clinton Giddings died at his home in Brenham on August 19, 1903, at 10 o'clock p. m.

He was born July 18, 1827, in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and moved to Texas in 1852 and settled in Brenham, Washington County, where he resided until his death. DeWitt Clinton Giddings was descended from a sturdy stock of pioneers in America, and belonged to a family well known in the history of this country since Colonial days for patriotism and moral and material strength. Before coming to Texas he had studied law, and on his arrival was admitted to the bar and entered upon the practice of his profession in partnership with his brother, J. D. Giddings, who had preceded him to Texas a number of years. When he came to the bar of Washington County he found lawyers practicing here whose names then and afterwards were famous in the history of the State.

It is only necessary to name them in order to show the school of learning and ability which young Giddings entered. Of the older set there were Asa M. Lewis, W. Y. McFarland, J. D. Giddings, Chauncey B. and James E. Shepard, Judge Horton, James Willie, B. E. Tarver and John Sayles. Among the young men were B. H. Davis, Ben H. and Jefferson Bassett, Josiah Crosby and Asa H. Willie. The law firm of Giddings & Giddings soon acquired an extensive practice and became well known throughout the State for ability and high character. Afterwards changes were made in the firm by the introduction of other members, and "Giddings & Onins," and "Giddings & Morris," appeared on dockets of the courts and in the Supreme Court reports in many important cases.

Col. Giddings was a State's rights democrat. He believed in the preservation of the Union, but when Texas seceded he went with his State. From the ranks he was advanced to the grade of lieutenant colonel, and distinguished himself in the battles of the Confederacy. His standard having gone down in defeat, he devoted himself to the patriotic duty of the restoration of his people. He served in the Constitutional Convention of 1866, and in 1872, when others held back, he entered the contest against the carpet-bagger Clark, in the old Third congressional district, during the darkest days of reconstruction, and made the breach in the ranks of the republican party which opened the way to its destruction in Texas. After some years of service in Congress, Col. Giddings returned to private life, and on the death of his brother gave up the

practice of law and devoted himself to banking. The banking firm of Giddings & Giddings was established soon after the war, and for many years has been well known for its financial strength and conservative methods of business.

Endowed with a sound judgment and a public spirit, he was ever ready to aid and foster the business enterprises of his city, and generously contributed to its material advancement. In 1860 he married Miss Malinda Lusk, the daughter of Sam Lusk, one of the framers of the Constitution of the Republic of Texas. Of the marriage there were five children. Mrs. Giddings died in 1869. D. C. Giddings, Jr., is the only survivor of the children. Two daughters, Mary Belle and Lillian, were married and died, leaving children, Hallie B. Cooke, the daughter of Mary Belle; and Mabel, Marion and Lillian Wilkin, daughters of Lillian.

Col. Giddings was a man of firm conviction and tenacity of purpose. He was just and fearless in the discharge of his duty, his conclusions were reached after mature consideration and he was seldom wrong. Sternly honest and sincere and plain of speech, he gave utterance to his convictions in no uncertain words, and there was never any doubt as to how he stood upon any question that came up for solution, or his views as to the character or policy of any action. He was a safe counselor and a generous friend. Such is the man whose memory this Association would honor.

Therefore, Be it resolved:

1. That the members of the Bar Association of Washington County deplore the loss of their deceased brother, D. C. Giddings, and join the people of Texas in mourning his death. The State has lost an eminent citizen, fifty years of whose life were spent in the advancement of its political and material prosperity; and the people of Washington County have lost a friend whose devotion to their interests has been attested by many acts of public spirited generosity. A good citizen, a just man and a generous friend has gone from our midst.

2. In the memory of our deceased brother, the Court of Records of Washington County, the Court of Civil Appeals for the First District and the Supreme Court of this State, will be requested to take appropriate notice of his death, and make such orders as may be deemed suitable for the permanent record thereof. For that purpose, these resolutions will be presented to the County Court by the Hon. Ben S. Rogers, and to the District Court by the Hon. W. W. Searcy, and the Hon. Thos. B. Botts. The Hon. F. Chas. Hume is requested to present them to the Court of Civil

Appeals, and the Hon. W. M. Walton is requested to present them to the Supreme Court.

To the family of the deceased we tender our respectful sympathy in their grief for the death of their beloved father and head, whose life of love, strength and devotion attached them to him by the tenderest and dearest ties. Their consolation is that he lived to a ripe old age and departed after a well spent life, full of honors, beloved and respected.

That the members of the Association attend the funeral of the deceased in a body.

The secretary will record these resolutions and send copies thereof to D. C. Giddings, Jr., E. H. Cooke, J. L. Wilkin and Mrs. Heber Stone. He will furnish copies to the newspapers for publication.

C. C. Garrett, Chairman,
Ben S. Rogers,
W. W. Searcy,
W. B. Garrett,
J. M. Mathis.

On motion of Major Thos. B. Botts, the resolutions as presented were unanimously adopted.

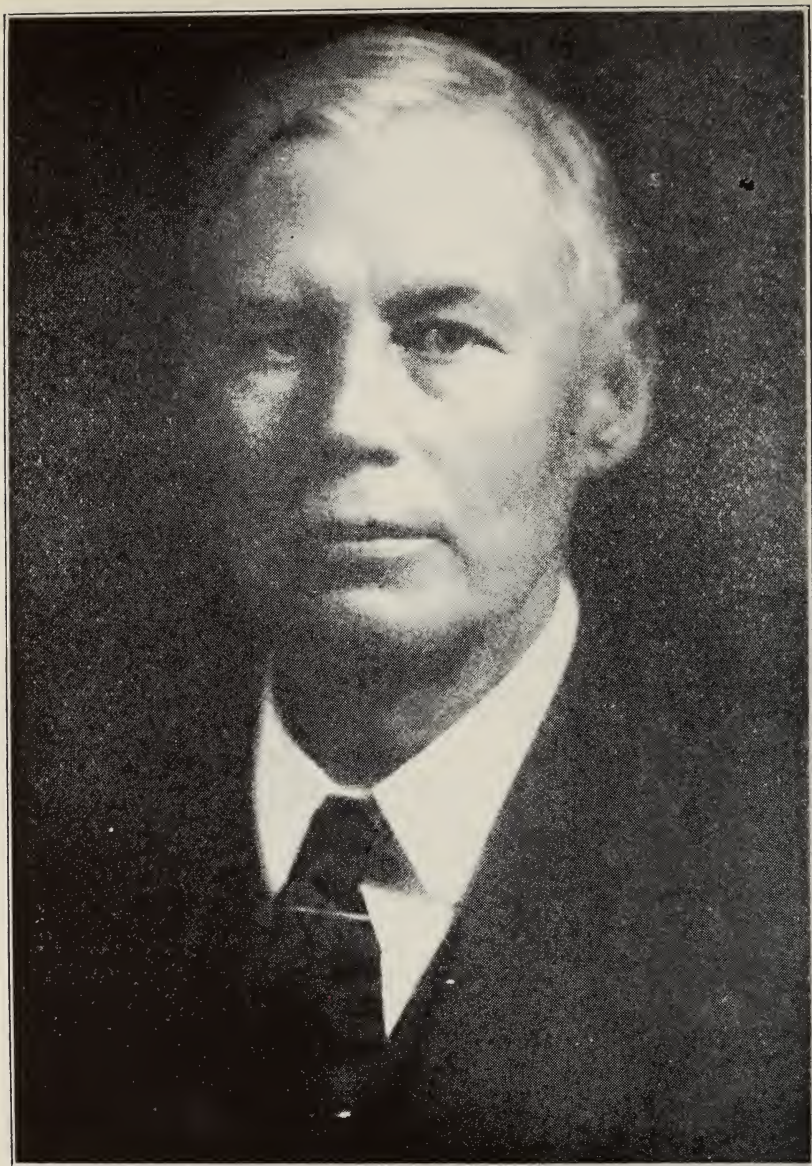
A motion was made and unanimously carried that all members of this Association, meet at the office of Major Botts at 4:30 p. m. for the purpose of attending in a body the funeral of our late lamented brother, Col. D. C. Giddings. There being no further business, the Association adjourned.

W. W. Searcy, President.
R. J. Swearengen, Sec'ty.

D. C. GIDDINGS.

D. C. Giddings, the son of Col. D. C. Giddings and Ma-linda C. (Lusk) Giddings, was born in Brenham, Texas, January 27, 1863. His education was acquired in the Brenham Public Schools, at A. & M. College, the Southwestern University at Georgetown, and at the University of Virginia. In 1881, when 18 years of age, he entered the banking house of Giddings & Giddings, and has been continuously identified with this institution for 34 years. He received his interest in the business in 1884; and since the death of his father, in 1903, he has been the active head of the banking house established in 1866 by J. D. and D. C. Giddings.

Mr. Giddings fills many prominent positions in Brenham, being president of the Brenham Compress Oil and Manufacturing Company, which is a consolidation of the



D. C. GIDDINGS

Brenham Oil Mills, the Brenham Electric Light Company and the Brenham Ice and Cold Storage Company; president of the Brenham Compress Company, and president of the South Texas Cotton Mills. Since 1905 he has been city treasurer. Politically, Mr. Giddings is a staunch democrat, and was, as long as he desired the honor, chairman of the Washington County Democratic executive committee. In 1895 he was elected a representative to the 24th State legislature. He is a charter member, and was the first exalted ruler of Brenham Lodge No. 979, B. P. O. E.

As president of the bank of Giddings & Giddings, his work requires in a constant degree the courage born of clear thinking, and the capacity for rendering manifold forms of human service. Great wealth carries with it grave responsibilities; and under his careful control this business institution has grown beyond the most sanguine hopes and wishes of its founders. It has passed safely through every financial crisis, and for forty-nine years its doors have never been closed. In addition to being a monetary center, it is a bank of noble principles, where every moral obligation is faithfully fulfilled.

D. C. Giddings and Miss Carrie Bassett were united in marriage in Brenham in 1884. Mrs. Giddings' father, William H. Bassett, was an extensive planter and successful merchant of Evergreen, Louisiana. He was a bold and daring Confederate soldier. Her mother, Mrs. Caroline Bassett, was descended from a fine old Southern family. Upon the death of her beloved companion she came to Texas, and for many years this sweet and gentle Christian woman was closely identified with the charitable and religious life of Brenham. Mr. and Mrs. Giddings have three children, Linda, who married E. P. Anderson; D. C. Giddings, Jr., of the firm of Giddings & Giddings; and Carolyn, the wife of John D. Rogers of Allen Farm.

D. C. Giddings is true to his illustrious ancestry; and no one who views the tall, commanding figure can help being impressed with the tranquillity, serenity and firmness of the man, and the fact that he is of a race of men of superior physical and mental endowments. He is true to the highest ideals, and is governed by no customs, conventionalities, or arbitrary man-made rules that are not based upon the loftiest principles. Strong in purpose, shrewd in foresight, of stout courage and independent spirit, he is a great factor in every phase of life in Washington County, and is one of the most prominent men in Texas. In the democratic councils of the State his advice and opinions are always sought, and are highly valued. He has steadily declined all high political offices.

As a citizen he stands pre-eminent, encouraging and supporting every public enterprise that in his sound judgment is indicative of the advancement and betterment of Brenham along moral, intellectual and financial lines. No subscription lists of great moment, and few of any other kind, are circulated without his name at the head. He never speaks of his acts of charity, however; but many a distressed business man has been saved from bankruptcy, and many a widow's mite has brought surprisingly large interest through trust in him. Daily he sows the seeds of service in the soil of human hearts, and he is reaping the joy of living which this work imparts.

With him it's no great rarity
To lighten somebody's woes,
By little acts of charity
Of which nobody knows.
Princely deeds of kindness
He does every blessed day,
To help some souls in blindness
Groping along the way.

With him it's always understood,
That in every thought and deed,
He gives the service of brotherhood,
In the field of human need;
And when he lays his burdens down,
To go some other where,
There'll be stars in his bright crown,
Because he placed them there.

D. C. GIDDINGS, JR.

D. Clinton Giddings, Jr., is a member of the firm of Giddings & Giddings, having been given a copartnership by his father, D. C. Giddings, in 1913. No young man in the State has a greater future before him, and to few have been given greater opportunities for achieving success. Socially he is quite popular; and in spite of his youth he wields a strong influence in commercial circles. He is glad to live because of the chance to work and play, to make people happy, and to find the most beautiful things in the world. While gazing at the mountain peaks, he smells the roses blooming in the valleys, and there is ever the song of a true manhood in his heart. He hates nothing save falsehood and meanness, and he fears nothing but cowardice.

D. Clinton Giddings, Jr., will add largely to the estate that will come to him by inheritance, and no doubt will be as great a factor for good in Brenham as is his father, D. C. Giddings; and he will unquestionably give new lustre to the already distinguished family name of Giddings.



D. C. GIDDINGS, JR.

CHAUNCY B., JAMES E. AND SETH SHEPARD

Two brothers, C. B. and J. E. Shepard, were closely identified with the legal practice in the early days of Texas. These able practitioners were members of the Washington County Bar when that organization proudly boasted a coterie of lawyers second to none in the State; and, at a period when the ethics of this old court circle demanded that a lawyer should possess merit, personal honesty, fidelity and integrity in the highest degree. Chauncy B., a brilliant lawyer, came in 1840; and James E., an equitable judge and brave Confederate lieutenant colonel, arrived in 1846.

JAMES E. SHEPARD.

James E. Shepard was born in Mathews County, Virginia, April 24, 1817. His father was Dr. Seth Shepard, and his mother was Mary Fountain Williams. At the age of 16 years young Shepard went to Lewis County, Kentucky, to make his home with Chauncy B. Shepard, a bachelor uncle. His legal education was acquired in the law office of William R. Beatty, of Greenupsburg. In 1838 he was admitted to the bar, graduating that same year from the Cincinnati Law School, after which he entered the active practice at Flemingsburg.

Stories of the marvelous resources of the new State of Texas interested J. E. Shepard, and its great possibilities attracted him, just as other pioneers were attracted, so he came in November, 1846, and located in Brenham. He immediately formed a copartnership with his brother, C. B. Shepard, who had arrived five years before. His first thought was the upbuilding of his adopted town, then scarcely three years old, and no man gave more freely of his time and talents to this worthy cause than did he. On January 1, 1848, he purchased the lot upon which now stands the Brenham High School, and this home, presided over by his estimable wife, became the center of hospitality, and many of the leading men of Texas were entertained within its walls. Mr. and Mrs. Shepard were instrumental in the establishment of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and were charter members.

During his residence of twenty-eight years in Brenham, J. E. Shepard was one of the most honorable and influential

citizens. That he had the trust and confidence of the people of Washington County was shown by the many public offices which he filled. He was a member of the legislature of 1850 and served a subsequent term prior to the war. In 1861 he was a delegate of the secession convention. A fiery Southerner in his views and sentiments, he very promptly offered his services to the Confederacy, enlisting in the 16th Regiment of Texas Infantry, being made lieutenant colonel. This regiment fought in Arkansas and Louisiana; and, while still at its head, he was elected, without his knowledge, judge of the Third Judicial District, which honor he accepted. He was re-elected to this responsible position in 1866, but was removed in 1867 by the military powers as an impediment to reconstruction.

As dean of the third law faculty, composed of J. E. Shepard, R. T. Smith, John Sayles and B. H. Bassett, of Baylor University, when that famous seat of learning was located at Independence, J. E. Shepard gave instructions in the rudiments and fundamental principles of law that were of incalculable value to the students. His law office was always open to these students, and to every young practitioner at the bar, and he was never too preoccupied to encourage and assist them.

In 1874, to the keenest regret of his friends in Brenham, this prominent citizen and just judge removed to Austin, where he continued his activities in the law profession, and served as one of the commissioners of the State Penitentiaries; four years later retiring from active practice.

Judge Shepard had a State-wide reputation as a lawyer of force, ability and rare learning, and he had the power to convert this extensive knowledge of law into special knowledge when the occasion demanded, for he was a master of legal tactics, a skillful jury lawyer and an equitable judge. His life was "distinguished for public service and eminent integrity."

CHAUNCY B. SHEPARD.

The elder of these two brothers, C. B. Shepard, was born in 1812 in Mathews County, Virginia. He was educated in some of the best schools and colleges of the Old Dominion—special attention being given to his training for the profession of law. At Louisville, Kentucky, August 10, 1842, he was united in marriage to Mary Hester Andrews.

Conditions were extremely unsettled in 1840, when this pioneer arrived in Washington County, and being a man of great intelligence and courage, and a lawyer of outspoken candor and honesty, he soon became the leader in many

public affairs. His opinions and advice aided in the adjustment of important questions concerning governmental rule. During the first year of his practice he attended court at Washington, and when Mount Vernon became the county seat, in 1841, he argued his cases before R. E. B. Baylor, who was then the judge. Upon the removal of the county seat of justice to Brenham in 1844, he established a permanent office here. Before the advent of his brother and partner, James E. Shepard, he had built up an extensive and lucrative practice, over a wide territory, numbering prominent and influential citizens among his clients. Prior to the war between the States he served several times in the Texas senate, and his great ability and learning were recognized in the number and importance of the commitments of which he was chairman.

In connection with the work in town, C. B. Shepard superintended his big plantation eight miles west of Brenham. He introduced improved agricultural methods, and had a fondness for raising fine stock and thoroughbred horses. His home was the rendezvous of people of culture and refinement; and, people who were in need and distress were not turned away empty handed, for he was liberal to a fault, and charitable above all things.

As old age crept on, C. B. Shepard relinquished the law and retired to his country home, where the declining years of his long and useful life were sweetened with the knowledge that he had the love and esteem of his fellow men. His death occurred December 31, 1892. He was a man of fine presence, gracious manners, generous impulses, and his beautiful character summed up all that was idyllic in chivalry, scholarly attainments and Christian fortitude.

SETH SHEPARD.

Chief Justice Seth Shepard, of the District of Columbia, the eldest son of Chauncy B. and Mary Hester Andrews Shepard, was born April 23, 1847, on the Shepard plantation, eight miles west of Brenham. His elementary schooling was obtained under Rudolph Krug, a learned teacher, who conducted a fine school at Greenvine. In 1868 he was graduated with the degree of LL. B. from Washington College (now Washington and Lee University), and in 1895 was honored with the degree of LL. B. from the Georgetown University at Washington. He began the practice of law in 1869 at Brenham, subsequently moving to Galveston, and later to Dallas.

In 1893 President Cleveland appointed Seth Shepard associate justice of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, and he remained as one of the associates until

January 5, 1905, when President Roosevelt advanced him to his present position of chief justice. Since 1895 he has been lecturer on constitutional law, equity, jurisprudence, and law of corporations at the Georgetown University.

At the early age of 17 years Judge Shepard entered the Confederate army, enlisting in Company F, 5th Texas Mounted Volunteers, his services dating from July, 1864. Although a mere youth, his record for bravery was unsurpassed by that of older soldiers.

In 1874 he was a member of the Texas senate. Beginning with 1883 he served eight years as a member of the board of regents of the University of Texas, then in its infancy. His wise counsel at this period in the early life of the University is largely responsible for its present usefulness. He was one of the builders of the solid foundation that is now upholding this splendid temple of learning erected by the people of Texas.

Texas history has ever interested this loyal Texan. He is an author of note. The graphic and interesting story of "The Alamo," in the Comprehensive History of Texas, was written by him. To Judge Shepard the State owes a lasting debt of gratitude for having found the original manuscript of the Declaration of Texas Independence, which was lost for more than sixty years. He discovered it in the archives of the State Department at Washington, D. C., and returned it June 11, 1895, to the Lone Star State. The famous document bears the following indorsement: "Left at the Department of State, May 28, 1836, by Mr. Wharton. Original."

Judge Shepard has membership in many prominent organizations, among the number being the American Bar Association, Sons of American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, United Confederate Veterans, and Southern History Association. He is a Fellow in the State Historical Association, and is president of the Southern Educational Society.

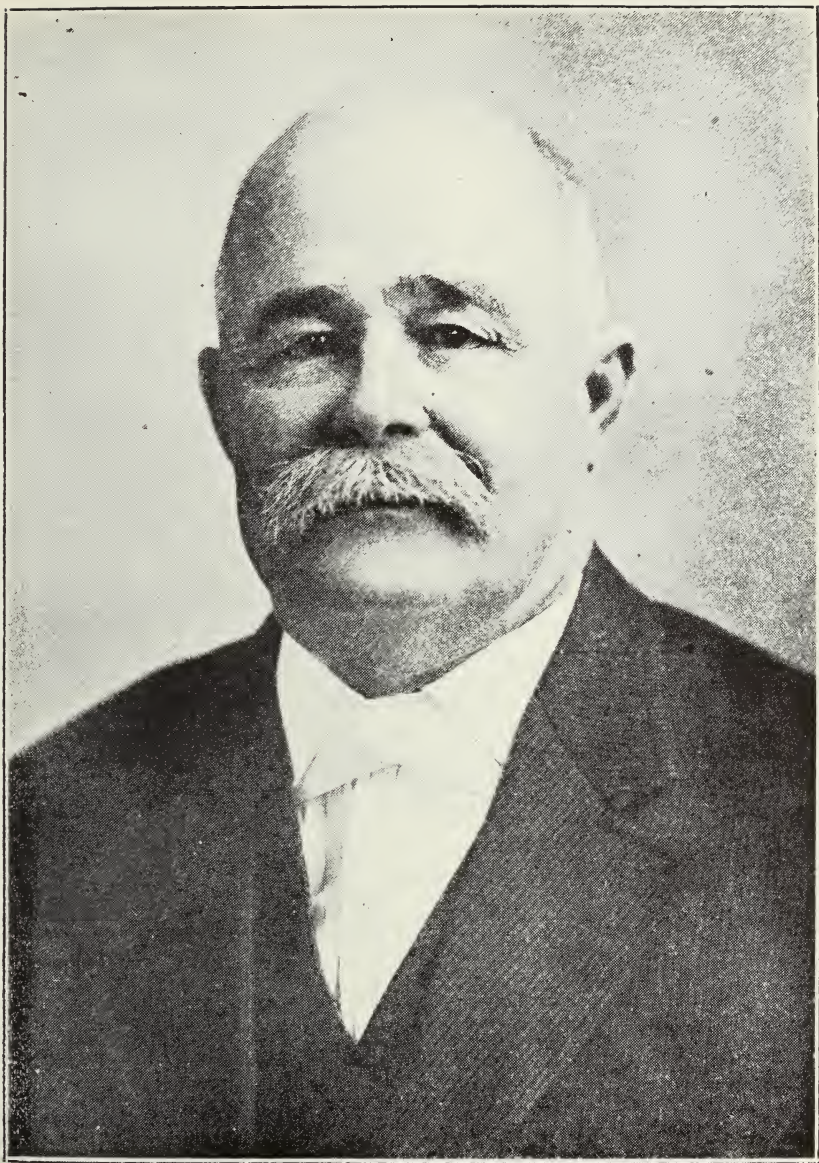
Judge Shepard requiring a broader law field for the development of his talents than that afforded by the small city of Brenham, moved away many years ago. He was popular and commanded the inviolable esteem of every citizen of the county, and his going was the source of deepest regret. His brilliant career has been viewed with pride and gratification by his old friends, and the memory of the distinguished man is held in affectionate regard yet, and Washington County still claims him as one of her favorite sons.

W. W. SEARCY

One of Brenham's chief claims to recognition in the history of Texas is furnished by its eminent lawyers. The list extending through more than seventy-one years is a long and illustrious one of men of great mental endowment and legal equipment. Some of them have lived on surrounding farms, and some have resided in the city, but each one has practiced in Brenham. The different epochs include names like these: J. D. Giddings, W. H. Ewing, Asa M. Lewis, J. & A. H. Willie, W. H. Higgins, John Sayles, W. Y. McFarland, Joe Crosby, G. W. Horton, Barry Gillespie, B. E. Tarver, W. P. Rogers, J. E. & C. B. Shepard, R. E. B. Baylor (lived near Gay Hill but spent much of his time in Brenham), of the first period; D. C. Giddings, T. W. Norriss, J. T. & P. H. Swearingen, E. F. Ewing, C. R. Breedlove, B. H. Bassett, Jefferson Bassett, B. H. Davis and Isham G. Searcy of the second period; Seth Shepard, T. B. Botts, C. C. Garrett, Goss, Dan McIntyre, L. R. & Beauregard Bryan, J. C. & E. B. Muse, O. L. Eddins, H. E. Williams, W. P. Ewing, W. W. Searcy and W. B. Garrett of the third period. The last period and those of the present day are J. D. Campbell (now of Beaumont), R. E. Pennington, J. P. Buchanan, J. M. Mathis, H. O. Schulz (now of Rosenberg), W. R. Ewing, L. E. Raspberry, T. B. Botts, Albert Stone, W. H. Bassett and W. J. Embrey.

Connecting the past with the present stands the life of W. W. Searcy, a living example of the courtly gentleman of the old school who helped the courts dispense speedy and substantial justice to the citizens without embarrassment, delay or chicanery. He is dean of the legal practitioners at the Brenham bar, and one of the most prominent lawyers in Texas. He was born August 1, 1855, in Lavaca County, Texas. His parents were Albert Wynne Searcy and Mary Louise Searcy, descendants from distinguished ancestors. His father was a brave and gallant soldier who gave his life to the cause of the Confederacy. His beloved mother faced the loss of her cherished companion with Christian fortitude and devoted her life to rearing their children.

The early part of Mr. Searcy's life was spent at Hallettsville; and he was educated at the Military Institute in Austin, Texas. Later he went to Lebanon, Tennessee, where he was graduated with high honors in the law department



W. W. SEARCY

of Cumberland University. In January, 1877, he settled in Brenham, and since that time has been closely identified with the legal profession not only in the city of his adoption, but in the Lone Star State.

Close application to his law practice has caused Mr. Searcy to decline many offers of political preferment. Occasionally, however, when his patriotism has been touched, and he has seen where he could advance the best interests of Brenham and Washington County, he has accepted positions of public trust. He was elected, at the solicitation of many friends, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee in 1880, and for twelve years discharged the duties of the office faithfully and well. An uncompromising advocate of the principles and policies of the Democratic party, he was an active and influential factor in all local councils; and during his administration the political situation in the county became thoroughly democratic. He was city attorney for six years, from 1880 to 1886, and gave legal advice backed by sound judgment, which resulted in the adoption of ordinances that improved conditions in various ways. In 1892 he was elected to the State Senate, where his great ability as a law maker, and his extensive knowledge of the law made him the peer of his colleagues.

The State Bar Association, established a few years ago, is composed of some of the leading minds of Texas. This organization of brilliant lawyers paid tribute to Mr. Searcy by selecting him as president. He presided at the meeting held in Dallas in June, 1914, and delivered an eloquent address in which he gave an exhaustive analysis of the laws passed by the last Legislature, and outlined plans for obtaining much-needed reforms in the statutes of Texas. This speech was highly complimented by the Association and by the public press.

For many years this talented lawyer served as a very valuable member of the board of trustees of the Brenham public schools. He encourages education among the masses, and is a strong believer in modern methods. It was largely through his efforts that the Brenham High School and the Alamo buildings were erected. The high esteem in which he is held by the children of the school is evidenced by the fact that the Junior grade selected him as sponsor. He is actively interested in the work that is going forward at Blinn Memorial College; and, when Brenham was confronted with the serious question of the removal of this educational institution, no man labored more diligently or successfully to meet the requirements of the College officials than did Mr. Searcy. His time, professional services and money, were given freely and cheerfully to this worthy cause.

Few men have striven more earnestly for the building of Brenham along business, educational and religious lines than has Mr. Searcy. He is charitable, too, but his right hand rarely ever knows what his left hand does. He is given the lead in many public enterprises where a man of unusual ability is needed, or where a magnetic and eloquent speaker is required. His clientage has become extremely large; and he is now in the enjoyment of all that the profession can give in reputation and emolument. In nearly every important case that has been tried in Brenham for the past 37 years he has been an able and wise counsellor on either one side or the other. Among the leading cases in which he has been a conspicuous figure may be cited:

Simon vs. Middleton, et al.; Rankin vs. Rankin; Giddings vs. Fischer; Seale vs. G. C. & S. F. Ry. Co.; Harlow vs. Hudgins; Swearingen, et als., vs. Bassett; Johnson & Co. vs. Heidenheimer; Simon vs. Fisher; Robertson, et al., vs. Breedlove; Evansich vs. G. C. & S. F. Ry. Co.; Ewing vs. Teague, et al.; Washington County vs. Schulz; Mikeska vs. L. & H. Blum; Trustees of Union Baptist Association vs. Huhn.

The law is an exalted profession. To be a good lawyer requires brains, a strict sense of justice and a kind heart. This trinity of virtues is responsible for the eminent success that has attended the practice of W. W. Searcy of Brenham. To his great credit be it said he is a Christian, an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and that he has always lived a life above reproach. He believes and says:

This world's a beautiful place to live in,
And there is no use of ever being sad,
Oh, it is a wonderful place to give in,
And in giving make somebody glad.
Give freely of your heart's best thought,
When judging of your fellow men,
True merit may be found if sought,
In spite of defects now and then.

Learn to look for good in all that you see,
And forget the troubles you have had,
Most folks are just as good as they can be,
And none are ever wholly bad.
The Master said, "Love ye one another,"
On the journey down life's way,
And to help a sad and fallen brother,
And cheer him kindly day by day.

Keep busy with life's beautiful things,
And watch the beauty in the rose,
And forget the thorn that hurts and stings,
On the sweetest flower that grows.
Give thanks each day for this beautiful place,
And meet your fate with a sunny smile,
So when you see the Savior face to face,
He'll know you lived a life worth while.

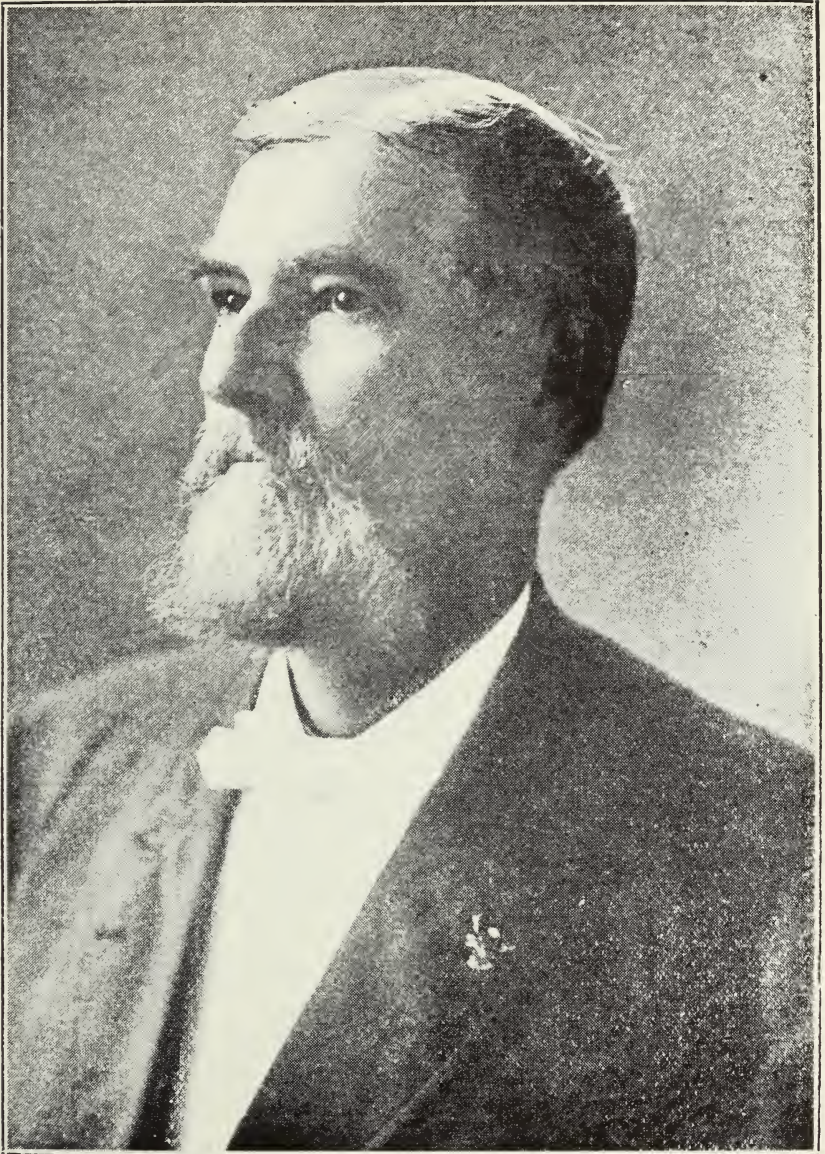
T. A. LOW

Theodore Augustus Low was born near Concord, Tennessee, May 20, 1849, and was the son of General Sam D. W. Low and Amanda Matlock Low, both of whom were born in the Commonwealth. Samuel D. W. Low was a farmer and a general in the Tennessee State Militia.

Mr. Low was associated with farm life until the age of 21, in the meantime attending school, and later becoming a student in the Ewing and Jefferson college of Blount County, Tennessee. He arrived in Austin, Texas, in 1871, but after six months came to Brenham, Texas, embarking in the machinery and implement business. In 1876 he formed a co-partnership with W. A. Wood in the lumber and farm machinery business, the relationship continuing until 1887. Two years later Mr. Low again entered into the lumber business, this time with Rudolph Stuckert, and this firm was succeeded by T. A. Low & Sons. Mr. Low's two estimable sons had attained their majority, and he began to teach them the principles of commercialism which he so well understood. In 1904, having been elected president of the First National Bank, Mr. Low turned the full control of the lumber yards to his sons, S. D. W. Low and T. A. Low, Jr.

T. A. Low was united in marriage in 1873 to Cecelia T. Baine, daughter of Moses Baine, who came to Texas in 1833. Three children were born of this union, S. D. W. Low, T. A. Low, Jr., and Mrs. William Morriss, all of whom reside in Brenham. This good man entered into everlasting rest in 1911.

This statement of facts gives but little idea of the important part Mr. Low took in the commercial, political and religious life of Brenham and of Washington County. As a business man he possessed the executive ability and power as an organizer that are chief factors in success. As a citizen and social unit his charity embraced all who were worthy, and his popularity made his loss felt beyond the circles of his own family and associates. He was too young to join the Confederate army, but most of his relatives participated. In his youth the stories told of the valor of those who wore the gray perpetuated in his soul a desire to honor and revere the illustrious dead. When the question came up at the Houston Convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, to have the anniversary of the birth



T. A. Low

of Jefferson Davis observed in Texas, Mr. Low was deeply impressed with the idea. Upon the return of Mrs. James B. Williams, president of Brenham Tom Green Chapter, of Brenham, from the Houston conclave, he, at her suggestion, took up the noble work of having Texas pass a law setting aside June 3rd forever as a legal holiday in memory of Davis.

At this period of time Mr. Low was a distinguished member of the Legislature. Guided by his earnest wish to honor the first and last president of the United Confederacy of the Southern States, Mr. Low, on January 13, 1905, introduced house bill No. 91, page 92, of the House Journal of the 29th Legislature entitled, "An act to amend Article 2939, of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, relating to legal holidays, and amending the statutes so as to make June 3rd a State holiday in honor of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, the same being the anniversary of his birth." This bill was read three times and passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, and was approved February 9, 1905, and became a law 90 days after the adjournment of the 29th Legislature.

Thus did one influential and estimable man honor the immortal Davis, and perpetuate the life story of the South's great chieftain, in whom intellectual and moral worth struggled for supremacy, and who has had but few peers upon the face of the earth.

Brenham Tom Green Chapter, U. D. C., claims at least a part of the credit for it was at the request of its capable and efficient president, Mrs. J. B. Williams, that Mr. Low had the bill passed making June 3rd a legal holiday. And every year when time brings June 3rd, the people will observe the anniversary of the birth of the great Davis; and they will honor, too, the memory of the good and lovable man, T. A. Low, who had June 3rd made a legal holiday in Texas.

Patriotism ever finds an abiding place in the human breast, and man naturally loves his fellow men, for

"All that hath been majestic
In life or death, since time began,
Is native in the simplest heart of all,
The angel-heart of man."

SAM D. W. LOW

Sam D. W. Low, the worthy son of his patriotic father, T. A. Low, was born in Brenham, in 1874. He was educated in the public schools and at Daniel Baker College, Brownwood.

When scarcely twenty years of age he was given a co-partnership in the lumber business of his father, the firm being styled T. A. Low & Sons. In addition to the duties at the lumber yard he superintended the farming, and took care of the stock on the farm. These avocations were pursued without interruption until the death of T. A. Low and the sale of the lumber yard. Since that time he and his brother, T. A. Low, have established lumber yards in some of the surrounding towns. Mr. Low is also actively engaged in farming and raising registered Jerseys. His influence is felt in commercial circles; and he is ever on the alert to find improved agricultural methods for the country, and to aid in civic betterment for the city.

Political affairs have interested Mr. Low since he was sixteen years of age; and, as a private citizen and as county and precinct chairman, he has been zealous in the pursuit of measures that had for their end the advancement and improvement of the democratic party. He declined all offices until his friends, without his solicitation, secured his election to fill the unexpired term of J. P. Buchanan in the 33rd Legislature. It was an exceedingly fortunate occurrence for Washington County, for Mr. Low, in connection with various duties, introduced and had passed a piece of legislation that writes forever his name on patriotism's honor roll, and gives recognition to the important place that old Washington on the Brazos fills in the history of the Lone Star State.

HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

Beginning in 18 with the first legislature, and ending with the present time, there have been senators and representatives of marked ability and unquestioned patriotism; but it remained for Sam D. W. Low, of the 34th Legislature, to honor the spot where liberty was declared, the Republic of Texas was born, and the place where the great Republic died. This patriotic work was accomplished when he had bill No. 646 passed, known as State Park Bill for Washington County at Old Washington on the Brazos, which



SAM D. W. LOW

provided for an appropriation of \$10,000 for the establishment and maintenance of "Washington Park."

In view of the fact that the people, not only in Washington County, but all over Texas, are co-equal in the ownership of this public park, the story of how it was obtained will probably be of interest. So a review of the circumstances leading up to the purchase of the park is given.

When E. W. Tarrant was superintendent of the Brenham Public Schools he suggested to the school children of Washington County that a monument be erected at Washington, on the spot where was signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Time had dealt unkindly with the ancient town, and every vestige of Elder N. T. Byars' blacksmith shop, in which this famous document was signed, had disappeared; however, after some difficulty, the exact spot was located, and the 13 foot 9 inch stone was placed by the children July 4, 1899. The inscriptions on the gray shaft of Texas granite are, on the west surface, "On this spot was made the Declaration of Texas Independence"; east, "Erected by the school children of Washington County, July 4, 1899"; south, "The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation"; north, "Here a Nation was Born." The unveiling was delayed by heavy rains, and did not take place until April 21, 1900, when Mollie White Harrison removed the Lone Star flag, and Frank H. Dever accepted the monument. These two children were students of the Brenham High School. This monument was placed on private property.

On April 14, 1914, the Young Men's Business Association, of which Frank Eberle was the secretary, passed resolutions asking that the legislature appropriate sufficient funds for the establishment and maintenance of a State Park at Washington, to perpetuate the series of historical facts that cluster around the old town. W. D. Notley, who succeeded Frank Eberle as secretary of the Y. M. B. A., gave material aid in this work. The history of Washington was published in the Galveston News, March 3, 1915.

Mr. Low offered the Washington Park Bill in the 34th Legislature for the first time on March 6, 1915, and it failed of passage for lack of time. At the extra session, called April 29, 1915, Mr. Low again submitted the bill. Governor James E. Ferguson sent the following beautiful and patriotic message to the legislature:

"Executive Department,
"Austin, Texas, May 5, 1915.

"During this special session I shall assume the initiative in recommending for your consideration and passage various

and sundry measures, having for their purpose the material and cultural advancement of our State.

"I want especially to ask this legislature to assist in this latter regard by providing for the purchase and improvement of certain lands in Washington County, on which was located the first capitol of Texas, and which is now marked by a shaft of stone, thoughtfully erected by the school children of that section, in 1900.

"Time lays as destructive a hand upon that which is historic as upon that which is uninteresting; and we, as patriotic Texans, should save to posterity the beauty and glory of this memorable spot, where first the birth of a new nation was announced to the world—where met the last Congress, that terminated the Lone Star Republic, and merged it into the sisterhood of these United States.

"I admonish you, therefore, as legislative representatives of this great Commonwealth, to do that which is necessary and practicable to preserve and beautify this hallowed ground, this altar of Texas independence, where citizen and alien may gather in the years to come, and from the white dust of travel find rest and recreation in the contemplative shade of this shrine of Texas liberty.

"Respectfully submitted,

"James E. Ferguson, Governor of Texas."

Washington Park Bill No. 646 was duly passed by the House of Representatives and signed May 19, 1915, by the speaker, Hon. John W. Woods. Washington Park Bill No. 11 was submitted to the Senate by Paul D. Page of Bastrop. It was adopted May 18, and the day following Lieutenant Governor W. P. Hobby attached his signature. On May 20, 1915, Governor Ferguson approved the measure "with personal pride and satisfaction."

The historic facts warranting this tribute to Washington on the Brazos are related in the appended story.

WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

And there are opportunities in the lives of towns which, if grasped, lead to the development of cities of great religious, educational and commercial importance. Washington on the Brazos, one of the biggest and most prominent places in Texas during the middle of the last century, is an example of a town that sat idly while its chances passed by. Nature intended that this spot should be a great business center, for she endowed it with many advantages. It is situated on high bluffs, at the junction of two rivers, and is a place of marvelous natural beauty. It is now deserted and almost forgotten; yet it is one of the most historic spots in all Texas, for it was here that the patriot fathers, in the presence of danger and disaster, signed the Declaration of Independence, and the Lone Star of the Republic arose on the horizon of nations. The Star of Liberty is shining brightly still; but only the hallowed memories are left to mark the place of its birth.

Many facts clustering around this ancient and deserted town are of great importance to the students of history. In addition to being the birthplace of independence, the constitution of the Republic of Texas was framed and adopted at Washington; it was twice the capital of the Republic—the first and last capital. The first president, David G. Burnet, was elected there; and he and the last president, Anson Jones, were both inaugurated at this interesting old place. Washington was also the seat of the government ad interim. While the Mexican invasion of 1842 was in progress the capital was removed from Austin to Washington; and, with the exception of the session of Congress held in Houston in the fall of 1842, Washington remained the capital until the end of the Republic in 1845. The old town is in reality the cradle and the tomb of the Republic of Texas.

Stephen F. Austin's first colonists arrived on the Brazos at its junction with the Navasota River, late in December, 1821, and were the first settlers in this section; and they

were farmers. The first colonist who came to the west side of the Brazos was William Dever. Andrew Robinson and his son-in-law, John W. Hall, settled on the west side of the Brazos, opposite the mouth of the Navasota River, and on the site of Washington. Robinson built the ferry boat in 1822 which carried so many famous men and women, and only succumbed to decay in 1882. In 1824 Austin and Baron de Bastrop gave Robinson a formal conveyance of a league of land as a colony, the grant including his ferry and the land on which the town of Washington is situated. Robinson gave 640 acres of this land to Hall and his wife Patsy. Hall's greatest ambition was to build a town; and in 1833 he had the site surveyed and platted and named "Washington," by Dr. Asa Hoxie, after Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia. The following year Hall purchased the remainder of Robinson's land for \$1,000.00 and set the pace in land deals for future generations by organizing the "Washington Town Company," composed of himself, Dr. Asa Hoxie, Thomas Gay and Miller and Somervell. Much enterprise was used in exploiting the advantages of Washington over its rival, San Felipe; and Hall's dream of building a town came true, for in a short period of time 22 lots were sold for \$1,902.35; and from these sales may be dated the growth of the place. The navigation of the Brazos River, which began in 1833, advanced the commercial interests very materially.

Unsuccessful efforts were made to have the general consultation of 1835 meet in Washington, but when the consultation adjourned at San Felipe, it fixed Washington as the place of holding the convention which drew up the declaration of independence and the constitution of the Republic of Texas. The delegates met promptly on the first day of March, 1836, all of them coming on horseback, and many riding from great distances. These men were of the most conscientious and honorable type. Most of them were refined, well educated, and prepossessing in appearance and speech. The youthful town then contained only one house large enough to accommodate this body of distinguished men—a two-story blacksmith shop, about 25 by 50 feet, which was built and owned by Elder N. T. Byars of the Baptist Church, and located a short distance from the ferry, on what was known as Main street; a structure framed and weather-boarded with clap-boards, with wooden shutters and a double door for the front entrance. Richard Ellis was made president, and H. S. Kimble secretary of the convention. The declaration was written by George C. Childress, and followed closely Jefferson's learned document of 1776. On motion of Sam Houston, it

was adopted, and on March 2, 1836, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the delegates signed it, thereby solemnly declaring the political connection of Texas and Mexico forever ended; and as representatives of the pioneer colonists, they constituted Texas a free, sovereign and independent Republic, fully vested with all the rights and privileges which properly belong to independent nations. The next work of the convention was the framing of a constitution to be adopted by the people, and the election and installation of the following officers: David G. Burnet, president; Lorenzo De Zavala, vice president; Sam Houston, commander-in-chief of the army. The men who composed President Burnet's cabinet were Samuel P. Carson, secretary of state; Bailey Hardeman, secretary of the treasury; Thomas J. Rusk, secretary of war; Robert Potter, secretary of the navy, and David Thomas, attorney general.

The day of the installation, March 17th, a courier arrived from Sam Houston bearing bad news. As the convention was ready to adjourn some alarmists rode through the Main street at full speed shouting in stentorian tones, "Santa Anna and the whole Mexican army are within a few miles, and rapidly advancing on the town; flee for your lives!" These men were evidently thieves, whose purpose was to frighten the people away and then rob their homes; but the effect was disastrous. The panic became general. Every man, woman and child who could obtain an animal or vehicle of any kind joined the procession that hurriedly moved eastward across the Brazos River, carrying luggage of every description. The cows lowed restlessly, the horses neighed and sniffed the air, and the very dogs tucked their tails and whined as if in realization of the danger which threatened the country. It is said that every citizen fled, save one Jesse Lott, who kept the tavern. This was the most hopeless time in the early history of Washington.

Confusion was created in the convention hall, and the delegates left hastily, without a formal adjournment. In the excitement the original manuscript of the declaration of independence was lost, but was found by Chief Justice Seth Shepard, formerly of Washington County, in the archives of the state department at Washington City, and by him returned to Texas, June 11, 1896, when Culberson was governor. The famous document is endorsed as follows: "Left at the Department of State, May 28, 1836, by Mr. Wharton. Original." It was in this year that Col. Wharton was sent to Washington for the purpose of negotiating the recognition of Texas independence.

Fortunately, Washington did not long remain in the chaotic condition in which it was left by the "stampede,"

for the people gradually returned; and with the fall of Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto, April 21, 1836, confidence was quickly restored, and it came into prominence again as a candidate for the capital in 1837. The first anniversary celebration of the signing of the declaration of independence was given at Washington, and took the form of a ball, in the convention hall. Invitations to this affair, some of which are still extant, read: "Washington, 28th of February, 1837. The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited at a party to be given in Washington on Thursday, March 2nd, to celebrate the birthday of our national independence. Devereau J. Woodlief, Thos. Gay, R. Stevenson, W. B. Scates, Asa Hoxey, James B. Cook, W. W. Hill, J. C. Hunt, Thos. P. Shapard, Managers." People came from great distances to this entertainment. The blacksmith shop was illuminated with sperm candles, and the music was supplied by a few stringed instruments, to which the merry company danced the Virginia reel, knocked the back-step, or cut the pigeon-wing, just as they saw fit.

In 1842, when Washington became the capital for the second time, many people of note lived within its confines. Sam Houston and his family were residents for a short while; and Anson Jones lived a few miles out in the country at "Barrington." Nearly every prominent man in Texas came to Washington during this period. Religiously, educationally, socially and commercially it forged rapidly to the front. A great volume of business was transacted, and brick buildings, some of them three stories high, were erected. Mrs. Jack Hall taught, in 1837, the first school. In 1839 Judge W. H. Ewing opened a school in a double log house. Rev. L. P. Rucker, of the Episcopal Church, in 1841 established an academy in a beautiful post oak grove in the western part of the town. This school was under the control of the Masons, and was known all over Texas as an excellent educational institution.

The newspapers were creditable to the craft, as evidenced by copies still in existence. In 1839 Rev. A. Bufington began the publication of "The Tarantula," the first newspaper; which was followed in different years by the "Texas and Brazos Farmer," by G. Harrison; the "National Vindicator," by Ramrod Johnson; "The National Register," by Miller and Cushney. In 1845 Judge William H. Ewing commenced the editions of "The Lone Star and Southern Watchman." The "Texas Ranger" was published in 1847. The "Washington American" was edited by W. J. Pendleton in 1852. D. H. Rankin published "The Southern

Watch Tower," which he moved to Brenham in 1853, and re-christened "The Brenham Enquirer."

The religious development of Washington had its beginning on January 3, 1837, when Z. N. Morrell of the Baptist denomination preached the first sermon, after which he organized a church with eight members. The American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York sent William Melton Tryon to Washington, and he and Judge R. E. B. Baylor held one of the most remarkable revivals ever given in this or any other town. The meetings occurred in the convention hall; and Tryon's silver-tongued oratory and Baylor's great persuasive powers so impressed the congregations that nearly everybody was converted, and there were only two or three people who failed to join the church. The candidates for baptism were immersed in the Brazos. Tryon was chaplain of the Texas Congress during its sessions at Washington. Robert Alexander, the first missionary from the Methodist Episcopal Church, came about this time. Rev. Roach and Rev. Andrew McGowan, Cumberland Presbyterians, arrived too. Dr. Martin Ruter, the learned educator and minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died in his 54th year, May 16, 1838, and was buried in the old graveyard at Washington. On his grave a white marble slab, three feet wide and six feet long, bore this inscription: "Thirty-seven years an itinerant minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Superintendent of the First Mission of the Church in the Republic of Texas." Rev. W. Y. Allen was the first minister to establish the Presbyterian Church. To Rev. L. P. Rucker must be given the credit for the greatest success in rearing up the pioneer Episcopal Churches. Thrilling encounters were had by these brave and noble soldiers of the Cross in the fight between religious influences and the usual vices incident to a new settlement.

Under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance, a great temperance demonstration occurred in 1849, and the crowd of people who came from all over Texas was estimated at 2,500 to 10,000 men, women and children. There were governors, senators, congressmen, judges, lawyers and other professional men, who participated in the exercises. This convention easily exceeded any gathering ever held before in the State; and the program was formulated to advance the interests of the cause of temperance. Miss Georgia Jenkins, who afterwards became the wife of Dr. Rufus C. Burleson, presented a silken banner to the State organization of the Sons of Temperance, and Dr. Burleson received it.

Navigation of the Brazos River was commenced in 1833.

Hugh Kerr, of Washington County, says in his "Poetical Description of Texas," published in 1838:

From Galveston as west we tend,
The River Brassos comes in view;
Close to the Gulf it does extend,
There is no bay to enter through.
A vessel passing in from sea
Should not adventure, if her draft
Exceed six feet, and swell there be,
Across the bar she may not waft.

But when the bar is pass'd indeed,
No other danger then to fear;
Thence fifty miles she may proceed
In any season of the year.
At certain times small steamboats may
One hundred miles still further go,
At sundry towns touch on the way,
Freight and passengers to and fro.

The names of towns upon its banks
We here insert, though none are large;
Velasco as a seaport ranks,
Quintana, warehouse for discharge.
One hundred miles above, presum'd,
Old Sanfelipe or Austin stood.

Some forty miles above or more,
We find the town of Washington;
And higher up, was heretofore,
Tenoxtitlan,—old garrison.

This river borders on each side
Exceeding rich and fertile land,
With heavy timbers, prairies wide,
And many farms on either hand.
The Brassos' source is far above,
Not yet explor'd through its extent,
But Texas enterprise will prove
Equal to its accomplishment.

River traffic assumed business importance about 1842, which year witnessed the appearance of the stern wheeler, "Mustang." Some dozen steamboats were put regularly on the river, and it was no uncommon sight to see as many as three boat, all being docked at the large wharves at Washington. The two side wheelers, "Brazos" and "Washington," were put in commission during the late '40s. The finest boat that ever sailed the river was the "Fort Henry." Thousands of bales of cotton and much produce were shipped to Velasco and Quintana, and many passengers made trips back and forth. River traffic improved with a rapidity unparalleled from 1844 to 1854, but from about the 12th of May, 1854, when the Brazos was so full that one of the boats ran clear out of the banks of the river into a large plantation, and there remained, navigation practi-

cally ceased. By common consent the people concluded that their only hope was in railroads, and railroads alone.

According to the records in Austin, Washington County was organized December 14, 1837. The first county seat was Washington, which afterwards became a great political center; and the first county officers under the Republic were: John P. Coles, chief justice; R. Stevenson, clerk; J. P. Sheppard, clerk of the district court; and R. Merritt, clerk of the county court. Washington continued to be the county seat until the fall of 1841, when the records were removed to Mount Vernon. In 1844 Brenham was elected the county seat.

The majority of the citizens of Texas favored annexation, and at a mass meeting held in Washington in the spring of 1845, strong resolutions were passed urging President Jones to convene Congress. Pursuant to his proclamation, the Congress of the Republic of Texas met, June 16, 1845, for the last time, at Washington. Both houses unanimously consented to the Joint Resolution of the United States. Thus it will be seen that old Washington witnessed the assembling of the convention which made the Declaration of Independence, and the last session of the Congress which terminated the Lone Star of the Republic, and added Texas to the United States of America.

At the close of the '40s and in the early '50s this almost extinct town reached the zenith of its glory, and attained its greatest commercial importance. With a population of over 1,500 souls it was one among the larger towns in Texas. The fine water facilities made it a distributing point for Middle Texas. The old place was prospering and building on safe and sure lines, until 1858, when it made the fatal mistake of refusing to give a bonus of \$11,000.00 to the Houston & Texas Central Railroad. The railroad officials then abandoned the route which had been surveyed through the Brazos bottom, and built the road to Navasota. There were only two or three people in Washington who favored the advent of the railroad. A majority of the citizens claimed that it would interfere seriously with their river navigation and trade. One man, with wisdom beyond his fellow townsmen, pleaded with them to raise the bonus. He walked the streets entreating the inhabitants to accede to the demands of the railroad officials. Finally, seeing how utterly futile his efforts were, he cursed the town, and in his wrath prayed that he might live to see the day when the site of Washington would be planted in cotton. This prayer has been very nearly granted, for today there is nothing left but a few old buildings fast tottering to the end, and one store, which supplies the wants of the adjacent farmers.

· Around the once proud old town are farms, but the site is so thickly studded with brick foundations, old cisterns and the debris of what was once a commercial center, that it is impossible to plow or cultivate it. Weesache grows in every nook and corner; nothing remains but the shadowy memories of a haunted past, and a shaft of gray Texas granite erected at the suggestion of Superintendent E. W. Tarrant by the school children of Washington County in 1900, April 21st, to tell that "Here a nation was born."

Down where the Brazos sings a low, sweet song,
Of the glory of the vanished years
When Washington was once so great and strong
And faced the future with no fears,
There stands a monument of granite gray
To mark a spot of hallowed earth,
And tell of Texas Independence Day
When a nation had its glorious birth.

It's no cloud-capped, lofty, towering spire,
But just a shaft of modest gray,
Erected there by the children's great desire
To commemorate the liberty day.
It marks the tomb of a nation that is dead;
For the Texas Republic is no more,
And her heroes their silent tents have spread,
With all the hosts long gone before.

Sad desolation reigns around this spot,
Twice the capital of a nation;
Its glorious story ne'er will be forgot,
For it is of brave men of every station.
Straight stands the shaft, while Time unrolls her scroll—
And all alone; for everything has gone;
There's nothing left but Fame's bright honor roll,
And the shaft, to tell a nation was born.

On its way to the Gulf the Brazos River goes,
In spring and summer, winter and fall;
Around its banks so high the weesache grows,
And hoary oaks stand grim and tall,
While the monument keeps watch by night and day,
O'er the lonely place where memories tread;
And e'er the river sings along its way,
A requiem for the town that is dead.

SOME EARLY GERMAN SETTLERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

Of the peoples who came from across the water none have done more to build up the interests, or advance the commercial and agricultural importance of Texas, than have the honest, industrious and God-fearing Germans, who left their beloved Fatherland to enjoy the freedom of thought and independence of action that is the blessed privilege of every citizen of the United States.

A great many Germans have, from time to time, settled in Washington County, and a great many have spread from Washington County to the northward and to the westward. The population of the county at the present day is composed largely of Germans; and some of the descendants of the original settlers are living within its confines. They have ever been citizens to aid in the development of farming interests and in the improvement of business conditions, and especially have they given assistance in religious, educational and musical activities. The fires of patriotism, enkindled in the old country, have burned brightly in their souls; and some of the "bravest of the brave" soldiers who wore the Confederate gray were the Germans who enlisted from this county.

Charles F. Fordtran and Friedrich Ernst, while not the first Germans to come to Texas, were the first permanent settlers. Fordtran, who was born May 7, 1801, was from Minden, Westphalia, and Ernst was from Varel, Oldenburg; after leaving Germany they met in New York. On April 3, 1831, they arrived at Harrisburg on the Mexican schooner "Saltillo," commanded by Captain Huskin. From Harrisburg they went to San Felipe, where they stayed several weeks, endeavoring to secure land grants. Ernst selected a league of land where the town of Industry, Austin County, now stands, one-fourth of which he gave to Fordtran. Samuel M. Williams gave Fordtran a league of land in this same vicinity as compensation for surveying two leagues. On July 4, 1833, Charles F. Fordtran married Almeida Brookfield, who was born in Detroit, Michigan. The death of this Texas veteran occurred at Industry, November 1, 1900, when he was nearly 100 years of age. Both he and his wife are buried in Prairie Lea cemetery at Brenham.

The first German to locate permanently in Washington County was Henry Eichholt, the father of Louis and William Eichholt of Cedar Hill. The place of his nativity was Brocken, near Berlin. He arrived at Washington in the spring of 1846, with just fifty cents in his pocket. Unable to speak English, and in a strange country where no one spoke his native tongue, the inflexible will of the poor German boy was undaunted, and with the determination to overcome obstacles that has ever marked the Teutonic race, he bravely set out to find work. In his heart there was the love and fear of God, for he was a Christian. His first work was that of driving an ox team, and cutting hay. He afterwards engaged in farming. In 1847 he was united in marriage to Louise Roehling, who came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Roehling, that year from Germany. Upon a farm of 200 acres, bought on the installment plan, near where William Penn is now located, they built a two-room cabin of cedar logs, with stick-and-mud chimney and dirt floor, that was comfortable in summer, but scarcely sufficient to keep out the sleet and snow of winter. Their bedstead was a home-made affair, one side of which was nailed to and supported by the wall. A big trunk brought by Mrs. Eichholt from across the water served as the dining table. It having become necessary to have a wagon for his team of oxen, Mr. Eichholt very ingeniously made one of hickory, fashioning the great wheels of solid hickory logs. There was an abundance of prairie chickens, wild turkeys, wild hogs and deer, a supply to always reward the hunter's effort. Life was peace, contentment and happiness for the youthful couple; and they made good friends, who appreciated them for their true worth. Being deeply religious, Mr. and Mrs. Eichholt helped Rev. Kraft, in 1860, to establish the third Lutheran church in Washington County, at William Penn, on the same lot where the present church now stands. They were charter members. About this time he purchased a farm near Cedar Hill, and operated a grist mill for the soldiers and the public during the war between the States. and was thus excused from army service. The death of Henry Eichholt occurred September 13, 1900; his wife died July 2, 1899. In modern poetry there is no avocation that has been graced and dignified more than that which in real life is most prosaic. Lowell, Whittier, Burns and others have cast the veil of romance around the sturdy form of the farmer, as well as the occupation which he follows, and have made him honored of men. The example set by this first German farmer was one of economy, energy and honesty, added to which was a deep and abiding faith in the Christian religion, and this example is today being followed by the German citizens of Washington County.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY EICHHOLT

THE FIRST GERMAN SETTLERS IN
WASHINGTON COUNTY

The love of adventure that is inherent in every strong and happy young man caused three boys, with ages ranging from 17 to 19, to seek dwelling places and search for fortunes in the new world. William Bohne, William Schlottmann and Frederick Eichholt arrived at Old Washington on the Brazos in the spring of 1847. The fires of hope and love burned brightly in their souls and hearts, for they came to prepare homes for three beautiful, blue-eyed, golden-haired girls to whom they had plighted their troths in far away Westphalia. Being superior farmers they soon found employment on the farm of John H. Seward at Independence, and for two long, weary years they toiled and saved, until sufficient funds were accumulated to pay the passages of their loved ones across the ocean. No greater example of trust and devotion may be found than that displayed by these pure and innocent German girls, Elizabeth Pieper, Elizabeth Richter and Louise Mernitz, the eldest being scarcely nineteen, who forsook home, parents and friends, and made the long voyage to join those whom they had chosen as life companions. The vessel in which they sailed having anchored at the mouth of the Brazos, they came up the river to Columbia in a steamboat, and thence by wagon to Indusry. As the girls could not speak English they had difficulty in making themselves understood, until they found Charles Fordtran, the first German settler. He came gallantly to the rescue, sent for the young men, secured the licenses, and joyously attended the weddings of Elizabeth Pieper to William Bohne; of Elizabeth Richter to William Schlottmann, and of Louise Mernitz to Frederick Eichholt. These happy marriages were solemnized in Brenham. Some of the most prominent citizens in Washington County are direct descendants of these worthy people.

H. Roehling and family came to this county in the fall of 1847; first stopping near the trading point which is now Chappell Hill, later going to work on the John H. Seward farm near Independence.

F. F. Sprain and wife, Henrietta Pieper Sprain, and four children, Minna, Henrietta, Henry and William, left the province of Westphalia, Germany, October 4, 1850, and landed in Galveston November 22nd. On the way the boy Henry died and was buried in the ocean. Among the cherished possessions of this family were four wagon wheels, which they brought with them from the Fatherland. At Houston Mr. Sprain made the rest of the wagon, mounted it on the wheels, purchased a yoke of oxen, and made the long journey to Independence, which consumed two weeks. Their first crop was made on land rented from John H. Seward. As Mr. Sprain had some money he fared better

than the majority of the emigrants, and was able the next year to buy a farm of 150 acres near Brenham. Six years later he bought a big farm four miles south of Brenham at \$5.00 per acre, and the inconveniences of the old log house, with dirt floor and stick and mud chimney in which he first lived in Texas, were forgotten in the more comfortable and pretentious dwelling built entirely of cedar. Henrietta Sprain died in 1891, and F. F. Sprain died in 1903. Their direct descendants are Henrietta, widow of J. F. Winkelmann; Bertha Sprain, the wife of Louis Tesch of Brenham; Adolph Sprain, J. F. Sprain of New York and William Sprain, of Salem. William Sprain, who lives at the old family home with his wife, Dora Tesch, the daughter of Louis J. Tesch, is a worthy successor of his pious father. He was educated in the country schools in Washington County, and at the age of 20 years began life on his own account. During the war between the States he assisted his father in the operation of a grist mill, where products were ground for the benefit of the public and the soldiers, and was thus exempted from the duties of a soldier. This mill was the first steam mill to be built in this section.

From 1846 to about 1854 the list of German settlers, as near as can be ascertained, includes Henry Eichholt, William Bohne, William Schlottmann, Frederick Eichholt, H. Roehling, Valentine Hoffmann, F. W. Schuerenberg, F. F. Sprain, C. Emshoff, William Roehling, Henry Loesch, H. Schmidt, William Meyer, H. Bockelmann, William Hoegemeyer, C. Schulte, H. Wehmeyer, William Zeiss, George Khroner, C. Dannhaus, F. and John Plueckhorn, Henry and F. Schawe, William Wedemeyer, Christian Wiede, John Rahm, F. Wehmeyer, Frederick Ehlert, Louis Lehmann, Frederick Kramer, H. Klanke, F. Wiese, H. Ceckler, F. Fahrenfort, F. Riebe, C. Grabe, Mernitz, F. Harms, Giesenschlag, Dierke, Herman Knittel, Louis Tesch, Fred Frank, William Schemlthoppf, William Seidel, Henry Hering, L. F. Hohlt, Homeyer, Henry, Fritz and William Broesche. In nearly every instance these pioneers were accompanied by their wives and children.

On October 6, 1846, there landed at Galveston, Valentine Hoffmann and his good wife, Maria Katherina, who, with their descendants, were destined to wield a wonderful influence over the agricultural, religious and commercial life of Washington County. They were born in the village of Ankerot, Province of Hessen, Germany. Their first place of residence was Galveston; however, after six months they removed to Austin County. In 1848 they located permanently at Berlin, in Washington County, and in 1852 bought

their first farm of 156 acres, for which they paid \$525.00. For 19 years they toiled together, and reared and educated their six children, until death ended the life of the good husband and industrious father September 1, 1871, at the age of 71 years. In 1854, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffmann assisted Rev. Ebinger in the organization of the Eben-Ezer Church—the first Lutheran church to be established in Washington County.

Few people live to reach the allotted three score and ten, and for the century to be rounded out is truly remarkable. Maria Katherina Hoffmann lived to be 102 years of age, having retained her health and faculties until within a few months of her demise, which occurred October 8, 1907. At 70 her eyesight failed and she had to use glasses; at 80 it was restored, and she was able to read the little old German Bible, which she had brought with her from Germany, with her natural eyes. Beginning with childhood her chief consolation was in this divine book, and it sustained and comforted her all through her long, useful and beautiful life, and was her rod and staff when the sad end came.

These pioneers taught their children, J. J. Hoffmann, John Hoffmann, R. Hoffmann, Mrs. Mary Catherine Struwe, Mrs. Mary Margaret Harriss and Mrs. W. C. Broesche, the principles of right living, thus exemplifying the foundation of much of the frugality and honesty that characterizes so markedly the Germans of today in Washington County. When the 100th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Hoffmann was celebrated, March 31, 1905, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, she had the extreme satisfaction of knowing that her descendants had profited by her wise counsel, and that among the 146 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren, there was not one who was unworthy of their ancestry.

Of the sons, two answered the call to arms at the beginning of the four years' strife between the North and South, and served as members of Company E, Tom Green's Brigade, until the close of the war. They are J. J. and John Hoffmann. John died soon after the war and J. J. returned to his farm near Berlin, where he operated a gin, and steam and corn grist mill.

R. Hoffmann, the third son, established a mercantile business in Brenham in 1867, and for over forty years was one of the most successful merchants and most prominent men of the town. He married Dorothy Anna Hitscher, and of this union there were born three daughters, Louise, the wife of R. A. Schuerenberg; Emma, who married Hampus Roos, and Lillian, and three sons, Reinhardt, Edward F. and John.

all of whom are now dead. R. Hoffmann died February 28, 1909.

This pioneer family of Hoffmanns became allied in 1886 with the Schuerenbergs, another family of early settlers, by the marriage of Louise Hoffmann and R. A. Schuerenberg. This last named family, which added so much to the good qualities of the German element in Washington County, had its origin with the coming, in 1848, of Captain Frederick William Schuerenberg. He was born at Kettwig on the Ruhr, Province of the Rhine, and was graduated from Dueseldorf University. His first location was at Chappell Hill, and he engaged in blacksmithing until the beginning of the war between the North and South. In 1861 he entered the army as a captain under John Sayles, and was assigned to duty as a drillmaster. At the close of the war he went to Independence, and later to Berlin, where he farmed, raised stock and operated a blacksmith shop. In 1855 he married Louise Mueller, a native of Perleberg, Province of Brandenburg. In company with relatives, she came to Texas in 1849, and with them settled in Brenham, where the wedding took place. They were blessed with five children, only two of whom, R. A. and F. W. Schuerenberg, are living. In 1875 Captain Schuerenberg moved to Brenham and opened a blacksmith shop, in connection with which he subsequently began the manufacture of plows and farming implements. This business he conducted successfully up to the time of his death, laying solidly and well the foundation for the vast business which his energetic and enterprising sons have since built.

At the death of Captain Schuerenberg, March 17, 1882, the management of the estate devolved upon R. A. and F. W. Schuerenberg. The younger son had learned the blacksmith trade in his father's shop, so he took charge of that department; the elder, being an expert accountant and good buyer, assumed control of the office.

Robert Alexander Schuerenberg was born in Berlin, Texas, August 21, 1859, and was educated in the public schools. In 1886 he married Louise Hoffmann, daughter of R. Hoffmann, and they have one daughter, Lillian, who became the wife of Tom A. Adams November 11, 1915.

Frederick William Schuerenberg was born in Berlin, Texas, January 17, 1862; he also received his education in the free schools. He was married in 1886 to Bertha, the daughter of E. Reichardt, and they have two children, Benita, the wife of J. J. Marek, and Bertha, the wife of C. A. DeWare.

When their mother died the Schuerenbergs became sole heirs to the property. Trade increased, close application



C. KLAERNER

caused nearly every venture to end well, and success came quickly. They added a general stock of fine carriages, wagons, harness, automobiles, etc., and in time erected better and more modern buildings. Today their plant covers two acres of ground, and their business is considered one of the largest and most reliable industries in this part of Texas.

Most people get out of the world just what they put into it. The Schuerenberg brothers invested industry and energy, and in return they have received the reward of plenty; they donated honesty and integrity, and to them has come peace and tranquillity, their greatest contribution was self-sacrifice, helpfulness and kindness, and their return has been a great fortune, contentment and happiness.

C. KLAERNER.

Another splendid type of the Teutonic race is found in C. Klaerner, the man of scholarly attainments, who has done so much for Washington County and Brenham in literary, musical and educational circles.

He was born November 9, 1861, at St. Johannis, near Bayreuth, Bavaria, Germany, his parents being cultivated and intelligent people. For seven years he attended the public schools, later taking private lessons to prepare for entrance into a normal. After three years he was graduated, and then took a course in a seminary. Inspired by the stories of the glories of Texas, he left his native land at the early age of nineteen years, and came to Austin County, where he worked on a farm and taught the farmer's children. In 1881 he passed a teachers' examination at Columbus, and he was granted a certificate. For six years, then, he conducted a school at Frelsburg, Colorado County.

In 1887 he accepted a position in a school in Austin County, where he remained four years. He came to Brenham in 1891, and for six years gave instructions in mathematics, methods and German at the Lutheran College, finally establishing the fine school of learning known in South Texas as the German-American Institute, where for ten years children were given superior advantages in securing educations, and in the study of the German language.

When the law creating the office of county superintendent of education went into effect, C. Klaerner was chosen by the commissioners court of Washington County to fill the responsible position. Being thoroughly accomplished in the government of school affairs, he had wisdom that gave keen insight into conditions, and knew instinctively all improvements that were so urgently needed. His first aim was the improvement of the school property and the em-

ployment of good teachers. The district system was introduced, local Teachers' Institutes were conducted at stated intervals, pupils' examinations were held, and a school annual was published. Old school houses were repaired, new ones built, the playgrounds were made more attractive, and in many communities the school became the social center. The study of music was encouraged, the children were taught to sing, and in some instances pianos or organs were purchased. After seven years of arduous toil, he voluntarily retired to resume teaching, the avocation which he preferred to all others.

A valuable treatise on "Proportion and Percentage" was published in 1904 by Prof. Klaerner. For a number of years he was on the staff of the "Texas Volksbote," and his editorials, written with profundity of thought and brilliancy of metaphor, carried messages which, rightly interpreted, brightened the lives of those to whom they were delivered.

Prof. Klaerner is a member for life of the Germania Verein, which organization he served for several terms as president. He was musical director of the Vorwaerts Singing Society, and master of the choir at the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. As an eloquent orator, a talented musician, and one who is passionately fond of poetry and song, he has ever done a wonderful work in encouraging the study of the most beautiful things in life. His ability, musically, is known all over Texas, and at the State Saengerfests his knowledge of music is valued and his fine voice is appreciated. When Dr. Johannes Hagen resided in Washington County he paid a high tribute to this gifted man by dedicating a series of poems to him.

In recognition of true worth the State Historical and Library Commission, unsolicited by him, appointed Prof. Klaerner State Librarian in the spring of 1915, and the duties of this high office are being faithfully and conscientiously discharged to the eminent satisfaction of the people of Texas.

Upon his removal to Austin friends arranged a reception that was ample evidence of his popularity and prominence in Brenham.

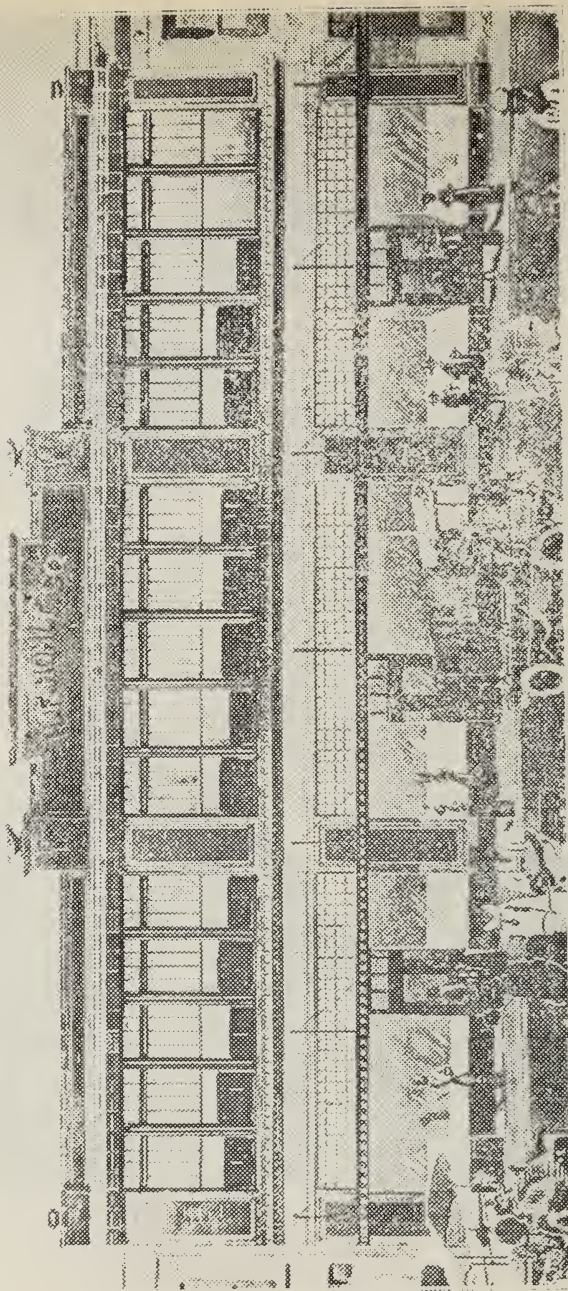
H. F. HOHLT.

H. F. Hohlt, president of the First National Bank, and one of the most prominent merchants in Brenham, was born in Washington County, December 16, 1859. His parents were L. F. Hohlt and Dorothea Hohlt, and they came from Hanover, Germany, in 1851 to this county.

H. F. Hohlt was reared on his father's farm, and that was where he developed the strong body, and acquired the



H. F. HOHLT



STORE AND BUILDING OF H. F. HOHLT COMPANY

habits of frugality and thrift that have been such great factors in his success in life. His first schooling was obtained in the rural schools, and later he went to Baylor University, Independence. His business career began July 31, 1883, when he, associated with C. Brockschmidt, opened a very small store in Brenham. This co-partnership continued until January 1, 1902, at which time he purchased the interest of the Brockschmidt heirs.

The ever-increasing volume of trade necessitated help, and in January, 1909, his mercantile holdings were duly incorporated under the firm name of H. F. Hohlt Company. In 1914 the massive, and conveniently arranged, brick store house was built as a permanent home for the mammoth business. The clerks in this establishment are taught modern methods in their work. They are treated with the utmost kindness, and there is a mutual aid association among them which was inaugurated by Mr. Hohlt.

This influential citizen is identified with a number of business enterprises in a managerial, or advisory capacity. He is president of the Brenham Banner-Press Publishing Company; president of the Texas Volksbotz Publishing Company; president of the H. F. Hohlt Company, and was elected president of the First National Bank in 1910. Religiously he is affiliated with St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Being deeply interested in educational work, his services as trustee of the Lutheran College at Seguin are deemed invaluable in the upbuilding of that school of learning.

On January 5, 1882, H. F. Hohlt and Miss Caroline Grebe were united in marriage, and they have four sons, Edwin, Arthur, Herbert and Ernest. Mrs. Hohlt is quiet and retiring in disposition, and her time is largely devoted to her household and her children. Withal she is a gracious gentlewoman who exemplifies the charm of true womanhood, and she is held in affectionate regard by all who have come within the sphere of her influence.

By his own efforts H. F. Hohlt has made his way in the world, and few self-made men have ever been more successful. He has the esteem and confidence of the masses. All people are his friends, and none are too poor or too lowly to get words of encouragement and helpfulness from him. Although at all times a very busy man, he is never too preoccupied to stop his work, and give time and thought for the general good of Brenham and Washington County. This estimable man possesses the vital force that is the basis of all enduring greatness that lives when this earthly tabernacle is dissolved. He possesses character, and men trust, believe in, and honor him.

HUGH KERR

One of the most conspicuous literary men in the early history of Washington County was Hugh Kerr, who wrote "A Poetical Description of Texas." This poem is a narrative of many interesting events in Texas, embracing a period of several years, interspersed with moral and political impressions; and also an appeal to those who opposed the union of the Republic of Texas with the United States, and the anticipation of that event. These verses were published in New York by the author in 1838.

Hugh Kerr was a native of Ireland, and he and his family resided some miles from Independence, near Captain Crisman's. He was affiliated with Prospect Presbyterian church, being a charter member. His death occurred in this county in 1843. Copies of Kerr's poem are very rare; the history of Texas, which is embodied, is skillfully and interestingly handled—the fall of the Alamo and the battle of San Jacinto being very graphic. The story of the latter reads as follows:

Eighteen hundred and thirty-six,
The month of April twenty-first,
The date in full we here affix,
A record of that storm which burst
Upon a guilty murd'rous crew,
By instruments of providence;
Some gallant freemen conscious, too,
That they then act in self-defense.

At half past three, the afternoon,
The Texans move in firm array,
The Mexicans espy them soon,
Behind their breastworks for them stay.
The Texas line when formed advance
In double quick time to the foe,
Reserve their fire but sternly glance,
The word Fire rings, and dash they go.

Then sounds of terror and dismay
Affright the Mexicans, and lo,
In loud cry, the Texans say,
Remember now the Alamo.
Remember Travis,—Crockett, too;
Remember Fannin, still they cry;
No breastwork stops, and they pursue—
The slain around in hundreds lie.

Now like a raging torrent force,
The Texas rifles slash and slay,
And like the trees in tempest course,
So fell the Mexicans that day.
A very short time did transpire,
From the commencement of the fight,
The routed Mexicans entire
Were killed, wounded or put to flight.

Six hundred thirty killed that day,
Two hundred eight of wounded men,
Seven hundred thirty captured, say,
A few escaped pursuers then; .
Among the captured is their chief,
The noted Coss, Almonte, too,
And many others—to be brief,
Their treasure, trappings, old and new.

Next day Santa Anna in disguise,
A wandering fugitive, was found;
He tried to shun his captor's eyes
By crouching prostrate on the ground.
When forced from there in mean attire,
He would not yet his name disclose;
For Houston, then, he does inquire,
And thence to him the party goes.

He had attempted to evade,
By crossing where the bridge had been;
On foot he had to retrograde,
And sunk in mud his horse was seen.
As they pass on to Houston's tent,
The Mexicans around exclaim,
Behold, Santa Anna! In he went,
And there to Houston told his name.

He added in faltering tone,
"The brave are always found humane,"
And craved his life from him alone,
Who soothes him in a gentle strain.
And now humanity attends,
For though they might retaliate—
The murder of their faithful friends
Such guilt they will not imitate.

SPRING.

Little clouds at daylight,
Blown about the sky,
Like butterflies so gay and white,
Are flying heaven-high.

Little fragrant flowers,
With May come into bloom,
And all the woodland bowers
Are reeking with perfume.

Little birds are singing
Of happy springtime days,
And the ambient air is ringing
With their songs of praise.

PEACE AND GOOD WILL.

Straight from bright Bethlehem's shining star,
Where all the Herald angels are,
Down the wintry skies some angels come,
With soft and snowy wings unfurled,
And the music from their heavenly home,
Sweetly floats out o'er the weary world.

They're bringing for you and me good cheer
Enough to last for another year,
When they'll be coming back again,
Singing the same sweet old refrain,
That's ringing down the ages still,
Of peace on earth, to men good will.

THE ANGEL OF DEATH.

With a radiant face, like a shining star,
And sandal-feet in swiftness shod,
Out of the valley of rest that lies afar,
Comes the angel of death—belov'd of God;
Where the watchers sad their vigils keep,
He bends and touches the eyelids down,
And places the flowers of endless sleep,
Where shines the well earned halo-crown.

He gathers the story of a life complete,
Led by a good and honest man,
Whose faith, and hope, and charity sweet,
Were ever after the beautiful plan;
As he stoops to bear the soul away,
Just at the set of the life's last sun,
You can hear the Master softly say,
"Come, good and faithful servant, well done."

—R. E. Pennington.

COME SIT WITH YOURSELF TONIGHT.

Come sit with yourself tonight,
And count the beautiful things you've done this year;
Have you made anybody's days more bright,
And did you wipe away a single tear?

When you found roses by the way,
Did you treasure them for their fragrance rare,
And sing a song of praise for the joyous day,
And a happy heart so free from care?

Come, see if you've been forgiving,
And find out what kind of a life you've led;
Have you sent sweet flowers to the living,
Or did you put them on the graves of the dead?

Come and talk with yourself tonight,
And tell how many beautiful prayers you've said;
Have you offered thanks for His love and light,
And are you grateful for your daily bread?

Come meet your past with uplifted face,
And as the old year dies can not you see
Your new life must be like the Beautiful Place,
God meant that this wonderful world should be.

FIVE HUNDRED COPIES
OF THIS EDITION
HAVE BEEN REPRINTED
OF WHICH THIS COPY IS NUMBER 208

